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Veneman to address grads

By Daniel L. J. Phillips
Associate Editor

President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz confirmed on Monday that Ann M. Veneman, executive director of UNICEF and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, will address members of the Middlebury College Class of 2006 at their commencement on May 28. The College will also award Veneman an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. A total of six honory degrees will be bestowed at the ceremony, which is the largest number of such degrees awarded in recent history.

Dr. Robin Bell '80, Dr. Richard Hodes '75, Senator James M. Jeffords (I-Vt.), Alec Webb and Lihua Yu will also receive honorary degrees and will be recognized during a dinner reception the Saturday evening before graduation. Liebowitz said that he prefers to award no more than three or four honorary degrees per year, but stressed the importance of timing for a few recipients in this year's "unusually large slate." Timing is especially significant for Yu, who is the grandmother of graduating senior, Tara Vanacore.

In consideration of Veneman to address the graduating seniors, Liebowitz said that he was "looking for a speaker who would provide an important and relevant message to students who would be leaving the relatively protected confines of Middlebury to pursue various jobs, volunteer work and studies."

Having grown up on a family farm in a small rural community, Veneman's global accomplishments speak for themselves and send a resounding message to young adults

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Courtesy/UNICEF/HQ05-0653/Toutounji

SGA committee hosts rally for anti-defamation

By Kathryn Flagg
News Editor

Fostering dialogue for a handful of students, alumni and administrators, the Middlebury College Student Government Association (SGA) Diversity Committee sponsored a sparsely attended forum for anti-defamation on Tuesday evening in Mead Chapel. The forum sought to discuss racial tensions on campus in light of January's racial altercation, promoting discussion between President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz and concerned students. The event culminated in a rally designed to "deface the defacing."

While sponsored by the SGA Diversity Committee, the bulk of the forum was devoted to dialogue between Liebowitz and those in attendance. In his opening remarks, Liebowitz likened the event to a similar, larger town hall meeting hosted last spring in McCullough Student Center, organized to address unrest following O'Neil Walker's trial. While Liebowitz affirmed the College's policy on intolerance, he quickly noted that January's racial incident cannot be considered an anomaly. "The situation or the incident that inspired this particular gathering or meeting was very unfortunate, but as I said last May, we don't exist in a bubble," he said. "These incidents will happen."

Liebowitz went on to say that, considering the growing diversity of the College, the existence of such altercations can be considered a "good sign." He noted that, when he came to the College in 1984, only five percent of the student body was comprised of international students or students of color — a number that has, today, jumped to 28 percent. He acknowl-

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Am Lit, English departments prep for future

By Derek Schlickeisen
Features Editor

Three months after Middlebury's faculty voted to merge the major programs in American Literature and English, opinions remain mixed as to whether the move was a good one. Proponents say the new Department of English and American Literatures reinvigorates an awkwardly organized literature program, while critics decry the loss of a curricular distinction unique to Middlebury.

Beginning with the class of 2010, the major in American Literature will cease to exist. The new English and American Literatures major will limit to six the number of American literature courses that students may take to satisfy their major requirements. In addition, majors will be required to take a number of introductory courses introducing them to the "founding texts and authors of the tradition in English," according to a statement on the department's Web site.

Supporters of the merger held that, under the current system of divided American and English literature programs, majors in one program of study are not exposed to material from the other program. Reginald L. Cook Professor of American Literature Brett Millier, who first proposed the merger, argues that the reorganized major program means that "something awkward and wrong is being set right, finally."

Millier said she believes that most, if not all, students who have already declared majors

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Faculty wrangles with tenure appeals

By Scott Greene
Staff Writer

The Middlebury College faculty met on Monday, March 13 in John M. McCardell, Jr., Bicentennial Hall to discuss a proposal regarding changes in tenure and reappointment appeals procedures, a new faculty-inclusive admissions strategy and current elections for the Educational Affairs Committee.

After those in attendance retroactively approved the Bachelor of Arts' degrees for recent February graduates, Associate Professor of Psychology Barbara Hofer presented the Faculty Council's proposed changes to the current appeals process. When members of the faculty become eligible for reappointment or tenure, the Reappointments Committee or Promotions Committee recommends a course of action to the president. The faculty candidate can then appeal an unfavorable ruling to the Appeal Committee.

The proposed changes aim to correct perceived ambiguity in the current language, because "the procedures in the handbook just weren't that clear," Hofer said.

Based on collected reports from administrators and faculty regarding the appeals process, the changes give more authority to the chair of the Appeal Committee to direct the process and decide when it has been completed. A second proposal ensures that members of the Reappointments Committee or the Promotions Committee, those who made

See Faculty, page 3

Trafficking Thin Mints

Kimberly Bowker

Peddling their wares outside of Ross Dining Hall, two cheery Girl Scout gal pals pose with their delectable treats. Students satiated their sweet toothes and helped the local troop fundraise.

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MIDDBRIEFS

BY KATHRYN FLAGG AND LISIE MEHLMAN

College admissions consider SAT errors

Early last week, the College Board disclosed that moisture damage on answer sheets had led to the incorrect scoring of 4,000 SAT tests of students throughout the Northeast. The admissions offices of Vermont's University of Vermont, St. Michael's College and Middlebury College have to reevaluate the applications of some 130 students as a result of this score report mishap. The College Board said the test scores were off by fewer than 100 points, out of a total possible score of 2,400, for the majority of affected students. According to Dean of Admissions Robert Clagett, this problem was "an easy one" for the College to solve "because it only affected about 11 applicants to Middlebury, and the score changes were usually only 10 points. So it did not have any impact on our decisions." The 4,000 northeastern students who were affected represent 0.8 percent of the total number of students who took the test in October, said Jacqueline Murphy, director of admissions at St. Michaels who also sits on the New England Regional Council of the College Board.

Middlebury hosts video conference on Katrina

On March 17, the College's American's For Informed Democracy chapter will host a videoconference entitled "More Than Six Months After Katrina: A Report Card for America." Held in Meeker House, the videoconference will enable Middlebury students to discuss the current state of the rebuilding effort with community leaders and residents of New Orleans. The sponsoring organization seeks to ensure that Americans continue to understand the changing situation in New Orleans as well as the ways in which they might offer aid and assistance. The videoconference is timed so as to coincide with President George W. Bush's most recent push to provide increased aid to the city, as he asked Congress for $20 billion more in aid on March 8. Emily Peterson '08, a Middlebury student who is helping to organize the videoconference, says that "The Gulf Coast still faces a long road to recovery, and it will be several decades before the region ever resembles the way it looked before." Americans for Informed Democracy is a non-partisan educational organization devoted to enaging Americans in discussions about the United States' role in the world.

ACTR adds biofuel bus to regional transit fleet

Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) announced last Thursday that, in taking another step towards enhancing the environmental health of the region, their newest bus is now running on B20 fuel. The first in their fleet to run on biodiesel, the bus is currently in service along the Middlebury College Snow Bowl route. In warmer weather, the bus will run on ACTR's Middlebury route.

Executive Director of ACTR Jim Moulton noted that, "We are fortunate to live in a state and region where environmental awareness and activism are so high." He continued, "That fact made using biodiesel possible."

The addition of this newest bus was facilitated in large part by recent studies and pilot projects conducted by the College, which has begun using biodiesel in some of its maintenance vehicles and smaller furnaces. ACTR's newest addition to their fleet will further contribute to the College's environmental initiatives, as Campus Sustainability Coordinator Jack Byrne noted in an ACTR press release.

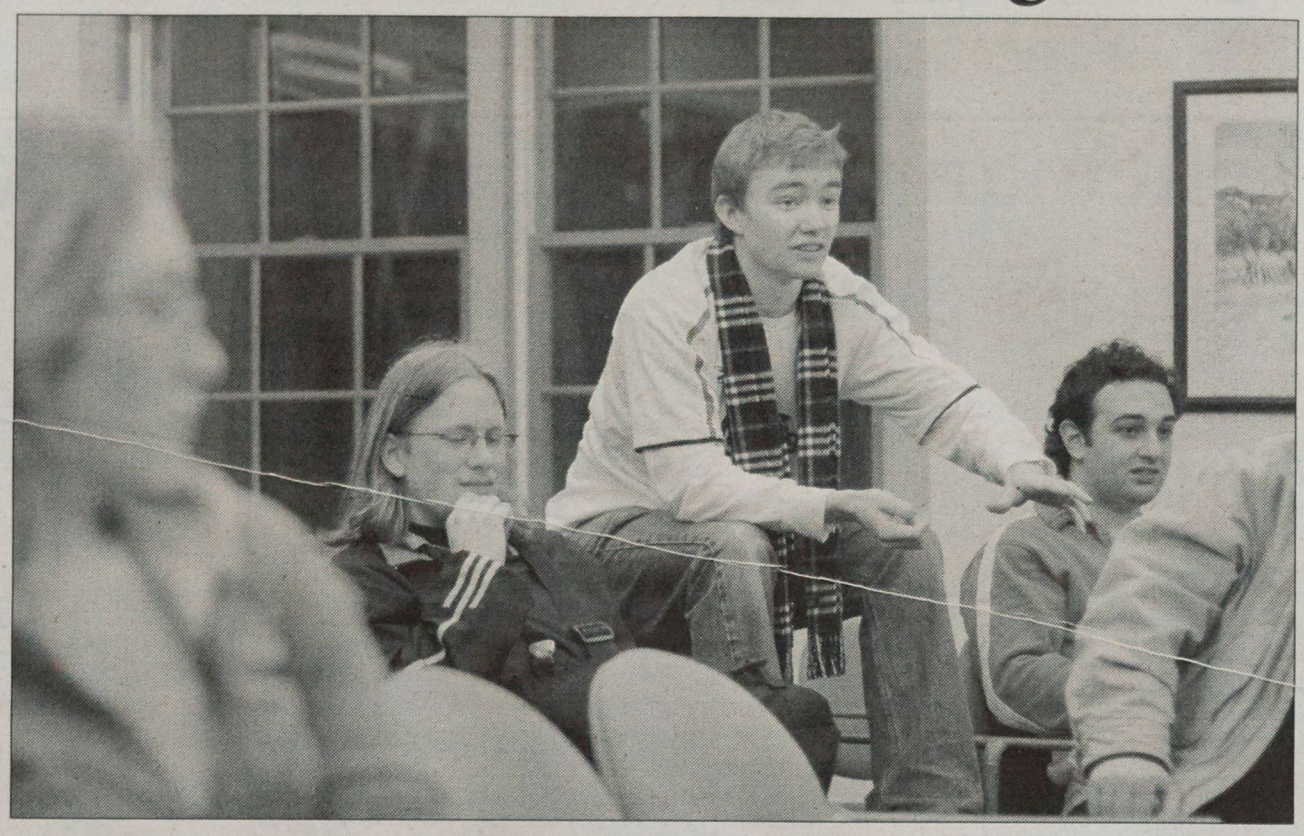
"Partnering with ACTR to put a biodiesel bus into service that our students and others can ride to the Snow Bowl and around Middlebury helps us meet our goals of CO2 reduction from campus activities," he said.

CORRECTIONS

The headline of the Opinions piece "UVM Law hurt by court ruling," written by President of Vermont Law School Geoffrey B. Shields in the March 9 edition of *The Middlebury Campus* was inaccurate. The University of Vermont does not have a Law School, and the piece referred to the private Vermont Law School in South Royalton, Vt.

This past week's Focus Section incorrectly attributed the golf preview article to Chris Dowd '07. Jake Cohen '08 authored the piece.

SGA considers smoking ban



Albert Bitici

Steven Costelloe '07 joined the SGA meeting on Sunday to voice his concerns regarding the proposed smoking restrictions.

By Katie Hylas
Staff Writer

Sunday March 12, the Student Government Association (SGA) met in the Robert A. Jones House to discuss a potential revision to the current smoking policy at Middlebury College. The Community Council's proposed revisions aroused emotion in both smokers and nonsmokers. In response to increased discussion around campus, SGA President Eli Berman '07.5 opened the weekly SGA meeting to all students to allow them the opportunity to voice their opinions.

Since President Emeritus John McCardell implemented a ban in 2004, smoking has been prohibited inside College buildings. Last month, faculty and staff members pressured the Council to implement, or at the very least discuss, further restrictions on smoking. Specific complaints pertained to smoke getting into buildings. The considerations of the Council included the designation of at least one smoke-free entrance to every building where smoking is prohibited, the designation of a certain distance from building entrances in which smoking is prohibited, making individual specifications for each building depending on the placements of windows or overhangs, banning all smoking on campus or making no change to the current policy.

Roughly a dozen students attended the meeting to express concerns or listen to debate about the potential smoking policy revision, the majority of whom were smokers. These students voiced frustration and offense.

Shanaz Chowdhury '09 protested that proposed policies treat smokers "as if we have a disease." She demanded, "Should we stand in the middle of the street when cars are passing by?"

Akash Mohpal '09 asserted, "We already have so many laws, rules and regulations to follow."

When the SGA picked up discussion again, the electric atmosphere was sustained. Senior Class Senator Andrew Carnabuci said smokers are the most stigmatized group on campus. He reminded the SGA of its responsibilities toward the smokers on campus. "We need to protect the rights of the minority as well." As he quickly scratched out a resolution calling for no changes to the current policy he said of the smoke outside buildings, "It's just a bad smell."

Roughly a dozen students attended the meeting to express concerns or listen to debate about the potential smoking policy revision, the majority of whom were smokers.

Sophomore Class Senator Max Nardini urged that the people affected by smoke are another minority deserving of consideration, "If it does bother people… we should consider those people's rights as well." This group includes faculty and students with offices or dorm rooms near popular smoking spots.

The most widely discussed solution was an awareness and educational campaign, intended to foster an environment of mutual respect between smokers and non-smokers on campus.

This educational plan falls under a broader vision discussed — that of the College as a place with a culture of respect. Berman implied that this culture of respect applies not only to smoking but to issues like dining hall dish theft and newspapers left on tables in dining halls. His vision includes a resolution of the smoking conflicts through a more personal plan. Berman proposes that students and faculty can solve problems by saying, "You're bothering me… you're upsetting me."

Some members of the SGA are hesitant about a purely educational plan. Freshman Class Senator Sean Denny noted that even after direct personal discussion between smokers and non-smokers in his building, Battell Center, "I haven't really seen smokers move away."

Freshman Feb Class Senator Gita Eglite went beyond Denny's objections and questioned the merits of an educational campaign altogether. She cited the possibility of a "huge gap between smokers and non-smokers [involving] less and less respect."

The issue has been tabled until after break. Until then, Berman plans to generate awareness of the smoking policy discussions.

Task force to look at social life

By Liz Campbell
Staff Writer

In response to increased campus-wide concern about social life at Middlebury College, Ann Hanson, dean of Student Affairs, and Tim Spears, dean of the College, have invited students to participate in a task force on student social life. The Committee will convene throughout the spring semester and will inspect student social life, solicit feedback from other students and provide recommendations on how to improve student social life on campus.

Specifically, the task force will solicit input from students in order to determine what activities would be fun, what represents a social life beyond alcohol and how to provide more and better options for students who are not yet 21. In an e-mail to students last week, Hanson wrote, "Middlebury students, not the administration, should be the ones to determine what social life on campus looks like."

This appeal for student input on the College's social life is largely in response to a growing dissatisfaction among students with the new interpretation of state liquor laws this year. These laws, most students claim, have severely altered the social life on campus by preventing social houses from hosting open parties. With fewer parties thrown by social houses and regulated guest lists required at each party, students are complaining that there is nothing to do on campus on Friday and Saturday nights.

Furthermore, these new regulations have encouraged students to pursue social life off campus, which has raised additional concerns about the costs and dangers of off-campus drinking. There has been a significant increase among students in alcohol abuse and drinking-related accidents both on and off campus this year, and the police have reported a noticeable increase in inappropriate conduct including fights and vandalism, resulting mainly from an excessive use of alcohol.

Noted activist visits Middlebury

By Rachel Greenhaus
Staff Writer

Students, faculty and townspeople gathered in Dana Auditorium this past Thursday to view a program devoted to exploring and celebrating the work of Larry Kramer. Kramer, a renowned gay rights and AIDS activist as well as a playwright, novelist, screenwriter and nonfiction writer, came to Middlebury this past week to speak specifically on the subject of his newest book, "The Tragedy of Today's Gays." The evening's program began with a reading from his 1985 play "The Normal Heart," followed by Kramer and a question — and — answer panel with members of the student body and the faculty.

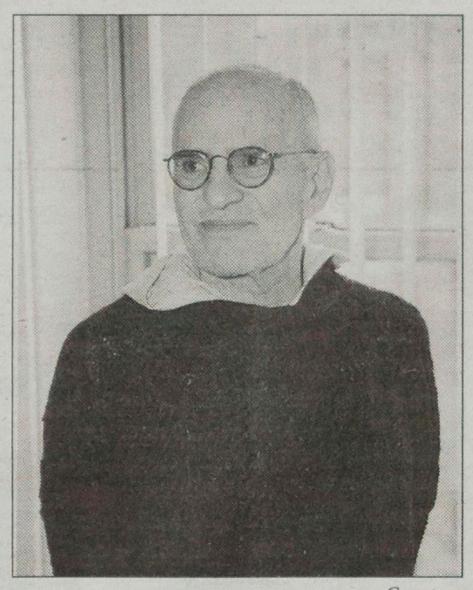
The reading from "A Normal Heart" was performed by Middlebury students Lucas Kavner '06, Rishabh Kashyap '08, Kevin Tierney '08, Paul Doyle '07 and Lauren Kiel '07 and Professor of Theatre and Women's and Gender Studies Cheryl Faraone. Assistant Professor of Theatre Claudio Medeiros introduced the scenes, saying that "The Normal Heart" "is not fiction — it is a document of a crucial moment in cultural history and a poignant reminder that even today, silence still equals death."

The students performed three scenes centering around the semiautobiographical gay male activist character of Ned Weeks (Kavner) and his doctor Emma Brookner (Kiel) and the way these two cope with the overwhelming enormity of the AIDS virus in its early years.

Doyle explained the value of the play for audiences today: "It's important for us to read it now and understand the voice of anger, to see where we come from. It helps us appreciate what we have and to see where we can do more. It's given me a lot of food for thought."

Later in the evening, Kramer voiced what was on everyone's mind when he remarked that "The Normal Heart" "could be performed today as though it were happening today. Every word is still applicable."

Kramer's speech was brief but vitriolic. Introduced by Dean of Cook Commons David Edleson as a "hero," and "the loudest and most fabulous mouth of all," Kramer took the floor to a standing ovation from the crowd. He spoke about topics ranging from corporate conspiracy to the current AIDS "plague," to the apathy of today's youth and the history of gay activism. Unafraid of offending anyone or everyone, Kramer accused the audience of being passive and powerless. "I don't feel very hopeful," he said, "and that's a terrible message to come and bring to kids today. But you have



Courtesy

to fight every single day of your life. Activism is salvation. I haven't in any way changed, I've only gotten angrier."

The student and faculty panel was comprised of students from the Middlebury Openly Queer Alliance (MOQA) and the Diversity Committee: Sam Shoushi '09, Colin Penley '06, Tamara Vatnick '07 and Lauren Scott '09, plus Professor of Theatre Richard Romagnoli and Professor of Russian and Women's and Gender Studies Kevin Moss. Each member of the panel was allowed to present two questions to Kramer. Often the exchanges between Kramer and the panelists walked a fine line between discussion and debate, but the tension only illustrated the highly personal and controversial nature of many of the topics that were brought up. These included the question of what young people should do to become involved, a question which Kramer claimed not to have the answer to, insisting you must "make it up as you go along," and urging those present to find an issue that they cared about to pursue.

In response to a question by Professor Romagnoli, Kramer dismissed the theater as a method for social change in 2006. He urged the "correct" teaching of American history, claiming a systematic elimination of gay figures — including, he says, Meriwether Lewis and Abraham Lincoln — from canonized history books. Calling civil union bills such as that in Vermont "little more than a feel-good exercise," Kramer called for gays to be allowed all the federal benefits of full marriage. He insisted that, in today's political climate "...if you are a sentient human being you wake up every day frightened."

Yet when a member of the audience stood up at the end of the night and challenged Kramer and the grim picture he had painted, asking to know what it was that made him get up in the morning, Kramer ended on a positive note: "I'm not being facetious when I say it's a challenge. But I like to fight. It's possible to be very angry and to despair over the state of the world and to be very happy."

Students in attendance voiced varied reactions to this final statement and to the program in general.

"I think that Larry Kramer brings a type of reality that you don't see at Middlebury. There's something to be said for seeing so much activism in one person," said Michael Jou '07.

"I felt extremely empowered by it," said Pauley Tedoff '06. "He talked a lot about activism in general. It wasn't just about gay activism or even about AIDS — it's about any social movement worth effort. It was uninhibited and refreshing and open and being open is what makes a movement, what creates action."

Allison Corke '08 voiced a different sentiment, stating, "While I respect Mr. Kramer's history and the amount he has done for gay rights and the AIDS movement, I felt that his overwhelming anger lacked hope or any suggestion for improvement of the situation of homosexuals in the United States and the world. He bemoaned the passive nature of the present gay rights movement, while belittling the new marriage rights in Massachusetts."

Faculty meeting continued here

Continued from page 1

the decision in question, receive copies of the Appeal Committee's findings in writing. Finally, the proposal allows for the Appeal Committee's report to serve as a reference for future Appeal Committees, and clarifies the Committee's ability to respond to "procedural errors that are immaterial to the outcome of the review."

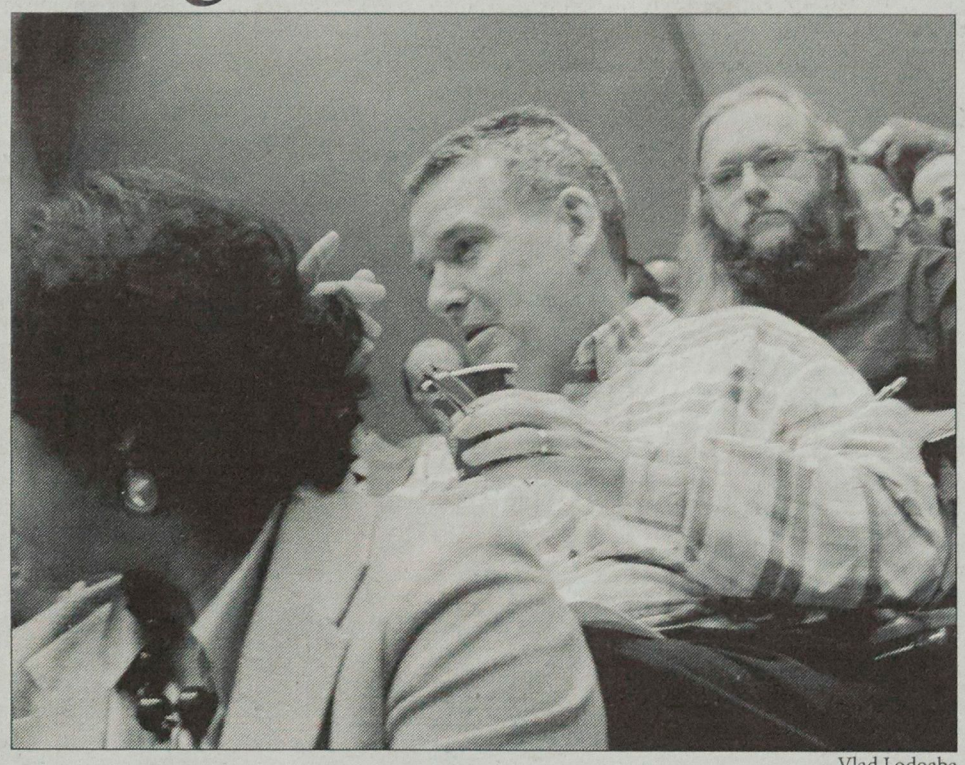
The faculty will vote to approve the proposal during its April meeting, because procedure requires that anything of substantial language be proposed at one meeting and approved at another. When approved, Hofer believes the changes should help make the appeal process more straightforward and accessible.

"We do believe people have the right to an appeal," she said, "And we want them to understand that they do, and how they can do it."

Following the Faculty Council proposal, Dean of Admissions Robert Clagett spoke briefly about the Admissions Office's new strategy regarding prospective students. Under the new strategy, a faculty member will follow up with each admitted student by e-mail or a phonathon, an attempt by the Admissions Office to increase the faculty's involvement in the admissions' process.

"Here are some people we'd love to have come here and are interested in your field. Would you like to contact them?" Hofer said as she described the new strategy, which she said would include a "good number" of faculty members.

Moving on, Secretary of the College John Emerson updated the faculty on the elections to the Educational Affairs Committee. The elections, which began Tuesday, March 14 via e-mail, pertain to an unprecedented number of vacant positions, including all three members of next year's Promotion Committee.



Vlad Lodoaba

Faculty members engage in dialogue regarding the admissions process and appeals policies.

Commenting on the time-frame for the elections, Emerson asserted that "we've been trying to follow the administrative and faculty rules meticulously."

The rules clearly stipulate that every opening be filled sequentially, so Emerson emphasized his efforts to move from one ballot to another as quickly as possible and ideally finish the elections by the end of the Spring Term. About 60 percent of the faculty votes in the annual elections.

In closing, College President Ronald D. Liebowitz addressed the faculty. He said the Prudential Committee of the Board of Trustees, at his asking, recently approved the College's new mission statement, attributing the accelerated acceptance to a desire to get the new statement into next year's College publication.

Finally, Liebowitz updated the faculty on the status of injured women's varsity alpine skier Kelly Brush '08. He said she had been moved to Colorado to undergo spinal treatment, adding that "the longer this ordeal goes on, the chances of recovery are slimmer."

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY SALIM SAGLAM

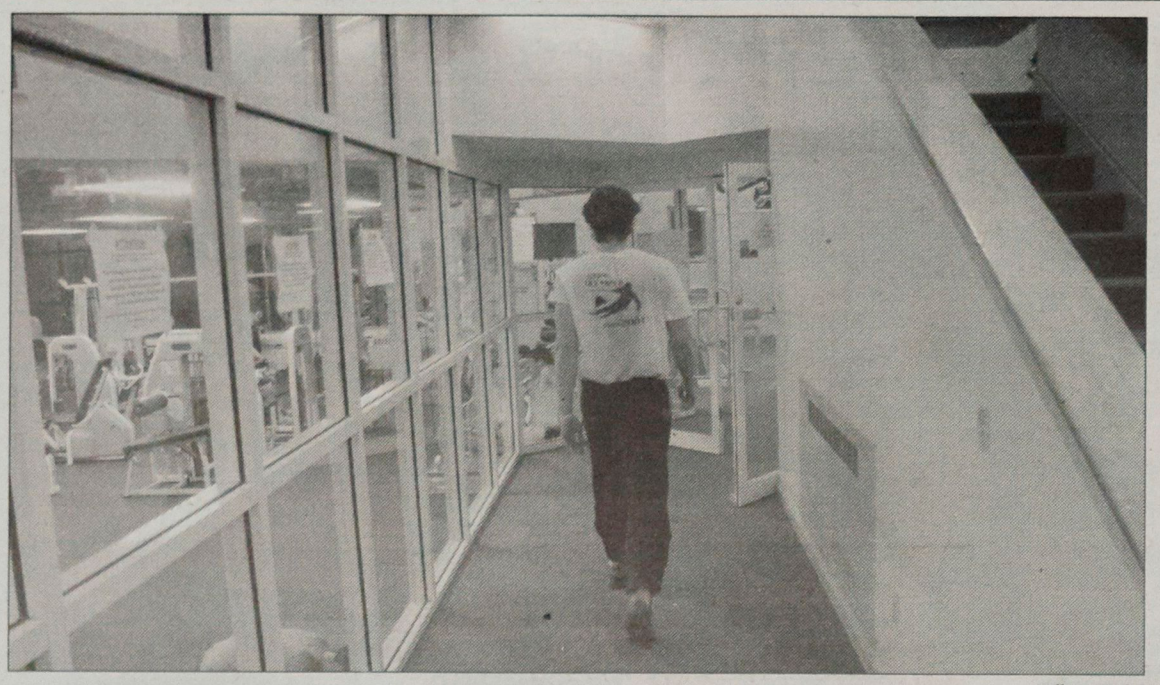
POITIERS, FRANCE — Concerned with their post-university career, the French students are on strike against Contrat Première Embauche (CPE), the new employment law proposed by the French PM Dominique de Villepin. This law enables the employers to fire newly hired employees between 18 and 26 years of age without showing due cause during the first two years of their employment. In protest of the new law, Université de Poitiers, excluding the schools of medicine and higher sciences, has been blocked by politically minded students since Feb. 13. Desks and chairs are piled in front of the entrance doors behind which the protesters camp. It is a common scene to see them with dirty pots, pans and other supplies camping behind the blocked doors.

A movement, which started in 13 universities in early February, is becoming national fast. About 40 of France's 84 universities saw student occupations to varying degrees on Friday in protest of the new law. Police intervened for the first time early Saturday to empty the main building of the Sorbonne, which had been occupied by student protesters for the past three days. According to BBC News Europe, tear gas and batons were used, at least two students were injured and some arrests were made. A demonstration will take place today in Paris with the participation of thousands of students from all over France. Recent police intervention and the memories of May 1968 in mind, security is already a concern.

France has the highest unemployment rate among youth in Europe swaying at 23 percent, and it goes up to 40 percent among the unskilled youth. According to Villepin, this new law aims at loosening the protectionist state policies concerning the labor market, rendering it more flexible and encouraging the employers to hire more employees. On the other hand the loosening of such socialist state policies, which the French take pride in, arises an anxiety among the youth who think that they will be more likely to be exploited by the employers under the new employment law.

Though students are against CPE, opinions on the strike, particularly on the blockage vary. A widespread sentiment among the student body is that the blockage impedes students' right to education. They also find it immature, disorganized and undemocratic, especially that around 300 student protesters shut down a university of more than 15,000 students. The protesters on the other hand assert that the blockage is their means to mobilize people against CPE. They say that there is a general assembly (assemblée générale) about the future of the blockage once in every three days open to the entire student body and those students against the blockage never show up to vote against it. Attendance at general assemblies so far has never exceeded 2,500.

With an annual economic growth rate below two percent over the last decade, France is finding it difficult to create new jobs for the 2.6 million unemployed. Though weakening of the socialist system is a likely consequence of CPE, it certainly is an attempt by the French government to tackle unemployment. Therefore, the latest developments constitute, on a governmental level, a good example for how a socialist system with a stagnant economy is readjusting to the new world rule. On the other hand, the French students' revolutionary enthusiast nature, their willingness to take the matter into their own hands and change it in their favor is certainly something to be respected. With the national protest in Paris on March 16 approaching, the political climate is heating up in France. We will see if it ever gets as hot as it was in May 1968.



Albert Bitici

In accordance with an order issued by the Fire Marshall, the once-cluttered Fitness Center hallway is now clear.

Gym adopts new protocol

By Dan Stevens
Staff Writer

On March 1, the Athletic Department announced a change in Fitness Center protocol. Due to a mandate from the State Fire Marshall, the College was forced to modify several aspects of the Fitness Center — most visibly the removal of personal belongings from the hallway directly outside the Fitness Center.

Although the College was responding to a mandate from the State Fire Marshall, plans had already been in progress to alleviate the problem. A plan was proposed by the Fitness Center Director in the past two or three years to improve the situation, but no action was taken. Another request from a Middlebury College professor within the last three months prompted the need for a change.

While the Athletic Department was in the process of enacting the changes, a visit from the State Fire Marshall prompted quick action. Forced to make the necessary changes within a week, the Athletic Department responded by removing obstructions in the hallway and posting signs stating the new requirements. The Athletic Department also notified the College community via e-mail of the changes along with the availability of lockers for student use.

Many students understand the need for the procedures, but they have expressed annoyance. "I understand that they're doing it for safety reasons, but it's still a pain," said Steve Head '08. "I just wish they would post exactly why they had to do it. I mean, we've been doing it the same way for a long time. Why the changes now?"

Although the College had permitted students to leave their personal belonging outside the Fitness Center, the Athletic Department has always kept the outside doors locked. This has not been changed. The doors are locked because there is no method for the College to monitor people passing in and out of those doors. Since the Athletic facilities are restricted to authorized personnel, the College must monitor the entrances. This simply is not possible in the area outside the Fitness Center.

Many students have also expressed dismay over the locker renting procedure.

"I don't know even know where those lockers are, and it has deterred me from going to the gym," said Elysa Granados '08.

The locker room policy is not a change from prior Athletic Department procedures. Students are permitted to check out a permanent locker if they choose. Also, students may simply stow their belongings in the locker rooms without a locker. Either solution works as long as personal belongings remain out of the Fitness Center hallway.

Students have also expressed desire to store items in the lounge above the Fitness Center. While convenient for student use, this room is used for many purposes including lectures, recruiting, meetings and classes. These events cannot progress with the constant interruption of students from the Fitness Center.

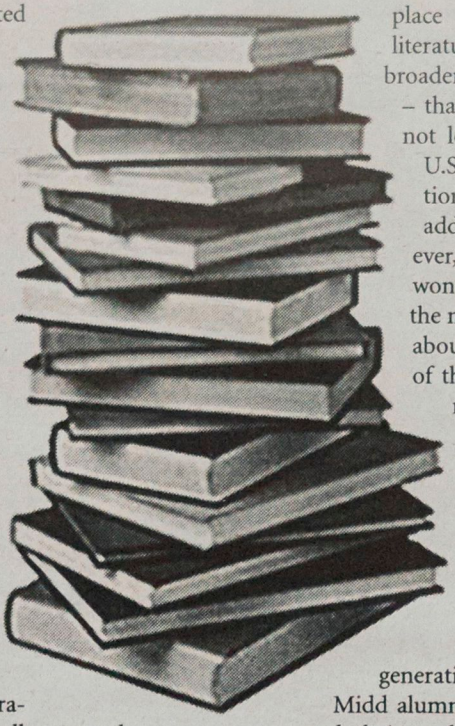
"It's too bad, but I guess we'll just have to change," Head said.

Lit. depts. move towards merger

Continued from page 1

in American Literature will choose to complete the requirements for that major. In contrast, Millier said the department is encouraging students who have declared English majors to re-declare English and American Literatures majors, as they will have already completed many of the required courses.

Associate Professor of American Literature and Civilization Michael Newbury noted that, "the faculty of both departments will be entirely supportive of any student's desire to complete the new major."



Preliminary descriptions for the 2006-2007 Course Catalog were due this past Friday, March 10. Said Professor of English Cates Baldridge, the new department "will be mounting a large, diverse and robust group of courses in American Literature next year, as well as several new courses in British Literature."

According to Fulton Professor of American Literature Stephen Donadio, however, the plan for reorganizing the American Literature and English requires "no change whatsoever in the structure of [the English Department] or of the requirements for a major in English." Donadio, a staunch opponent of the merger, voiced his opinion in the November 2005 Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* recently said that the intervening three months between the vote and Friday's submission of revised course offerings have not changed his opinion. The merger was "vague in its intentions and devastating in its impact," said Donadio.

Students have reacted in as mixed a manner as their professors. "I trust the professors who petitioned for the merge," said American Literature major Amanda Tavel '07. "I trust that it is crucial to place American literature in a broader context – that you cannot look at the U.S. in isolation." Tavel added, however, that she wondered what the merger said about the value of those alumni holding degrees in American Literature. "What do you tell the previous generations of Midd alumni who devoted their undergraduate education to a program that is now seen as insufficient?" she asked.

Fellow major Eli Menaker '08 said he did not view the major quite as favorably.

"The American Literature department was another unique aspect of Middlebury College that is being assimilated into the mainstream," he said. "I think it's unfortunate that the administration believes it is better to reshape the College and make us similar to other schools."

Diversity Committee addresses racial slurs

Continued from page 1

edged the challenge of engaging and integrating this increased diversity, but confirmed the administration's commitment to tackling these tests.

Upon opening up the floor to comments from the smattering of students, Liebowitz answered questions and addressed concerns that have risen in the weeks following January's altercation. At the onset of this question-and-answer session, Alex Yule '08.5 expressed a recurring concern in the wake of the incident, questioning the procedure for reporting sensitive information to the College community.

Liebowitz reiterated his message voiced in previous correspondence with the student body, noting the difficult balance between informing the student body and protecting the identity of students who are engaged in judicial hearings. In the first of what would become many references to the Human Relations Committee's (HRC) report, due at the end of the month, Liebowitz noted that the HRC report will speak to ways that sensitive incidents can be discussed in a timely manner with the larger community. During the discussion, Liebowitz again expressed concern at the role alcohol plays in racially motivated altercations, a concern that he first raised in his Feb. 23 all-campus e-mail in response to an article printed in *The Middlebury Campus*. He reaffirmed his belief that "respect for community begins with respect for self," defending his move to put January's incident in the context of the larger perceived problem of excessive drinking on campus.

Robert King '09 challenged Liebowitz's focus on alcohol, noting, "I think it's fair to say that if someone gets drunk and does something racist, the sentiment of their action … runs deeper than their drunkenness." Liebowitz, however, said the role that drinking has played in racial altercations cannot be ignored when considering the incidents, and that both issues must be addressed when searching for solutions.

Later in the discussion, Dado Derviskadic '08 expressed concerns that the student body is not fully aware of the consequences of verbal harassment. "I know what happens if I cheat on a paper," he said. "I know what happens if I hit someone, but I don't know what happens if I verbally discriminate against someone." Liebowitz responded by noting that the "social honor code," discussed by faculty and administrators several years ago, deserves renewed investigation.

At the heart of Tuesday's discussion was a desire to foster an environment for confronting the challenges of engaging and integrating an increasingly diverse student body. Administrators affirmed their commitment to continuing to address this problem, and Liebowitz noted that many of the HRC's 36 pending recommendations will speak directly to tackling questions of diversity on campus. However, Liebowitz and Dean of the College Tim Spears also noted the importance of active student participation in the process.

Albert Bitici

Dean of the College Tim Spears and College President Ronald D. Liebowitz converse with students following Tuesday evening's forum on defamation at the College.

"The administration has a responsibility for handling these kinds of issues," Spears said, "but students have to come to the fore to engage these issues. No amount of preaching is going to change the way people behave unless we're all willing to come at this together."

The evening's dialogue concluded in small rallies in which students decorated large pieces of plywood with degrading words that "we will not tolerate." The rally, an effort to "deface the defacing," displayed three prominent signs at each of the College's dining halls. Liebowitz and the SGA encouraged students and community members to communicate their ideas and concerns regarding diversity on campus.

College bestows honorary degrees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

entering the professional world. In her capacity as the 27th Secretary of Agriculture from 2001-2005, the first woman ever to hold the post, Veneman directed major international programs that included the $300 million Global Food for Education Program, which reached 4,000 schools and saw enrollment rise among both boys and girls by nearly 12 percent.

Veneman also played a key role in eliminating trade barriers and expanding opportunities for American farmers by creating new export markets, and she worked closely with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick in helping to lead the successful launch of a new round of trade negotiations for the World Trade Organization.

Early in her tenure with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Veneman was responsible for publishing George W. Bush's Administration's vision for American agriculture with her report, "Food and Agricultural Policy: Taking Stock for the New Century." The publication outlined key priorities for issues such as farm sector policy, conservation and the environment, rural communities, nutrition and food assistance. Veneman also serves as a board member of the Close Up Foundation, a nonpartisan civic education organization.

Veneman earned her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California (UC), Davis, a master's degree in public policy from UC Berkeley and a juris doctorate degree from UC Hastings College of Law. Prior to her appointment as the 27th Secretary, Veneman served as the USDA's Deputy Secretary, which is the Department's second-highest position.

Secretary of the College John Emerson, the coordinator of the Honorary Degree Committee but a non-voting member, expressed his enthusiasm for Veneman's commencement address. "I think those who value social work and service to children will be especially pleased." Emerson noted that although agriculture is a relatively small constituent in the Middlebury community, "Veneman is unique in having achieved a very high level of leadership in at least two very different and seemingly unrelated, areas."

Emerson added that she is a "very fine speaker" and has heard Veneman on the radio many times over the years.

Kelsey Rinehart '06, one of the two student representatives on the Honorary Degree Committee, said she was "generally satisfied with the nomination," although she had not heard of Veneman before the selection. "I think seniors may be a bit disappointed not to have a high-profile speaker," said Rinehart. "I did acknowledge to the Committee that the student body probably would not be as excited with the nomination initially, given Veneman's relative lack of name recognition, but said that students would, of course, look into her background and credentials and form an opinion."

While rumors circulated that Illinois Senator Barak Obama was in the running to address the graduating seniors, Liebowitz has not ruled out the possibility of bringing Obama to speak on campus. "Obama would be a great Fulton lecture candidate, and we have been trying to get him to speak here. We will continue to try to find a time when his schedule permits him to come to Middlebury," said Liebowitz.

Dr. Bell, who is slated to receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree, was a biology major at Middlebury and is now the director of the ADVANCE program at the Earth Institute. She is a Doherty research scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University, where she directs major research programs on the Hudson River and Antarctica. Dr. Bell is also the chair of the National Academy of Sciences Polar Research Board and Vice Chair of the International Planning Group for the International Polar Year.

Dr. Hodes, who will also receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree, was recently featured in *Middlebury Magazine*, and as Liebowitz recalled, gave a keynote address at the College for Operation Smile a few years ago. Dr. Hodes has been stationed in Ethiopia for the past 17 years, where he serves as medical director for the American Jewish Joint Distribution in Addis Ababa.

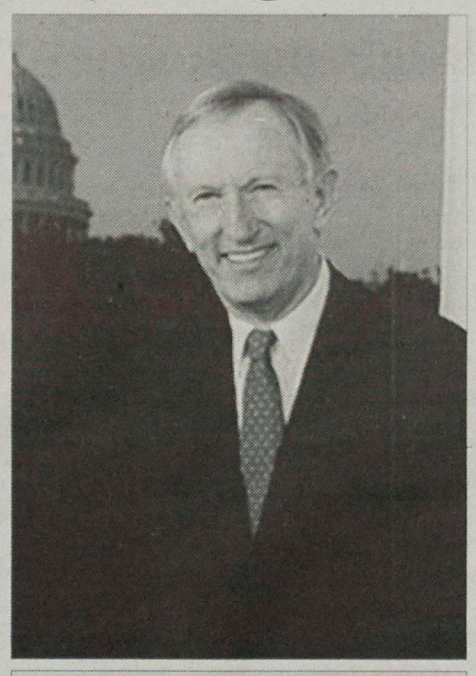
He has been involved in humanitarian medical interventions in Rwanda, Zaire, Turkey, Kosovo, Somalia, Bangladesh and India as well. Dr. Hodes also has an academic appointment at the Program in Medicine and Humanities at the University of Texas School of Medicine.

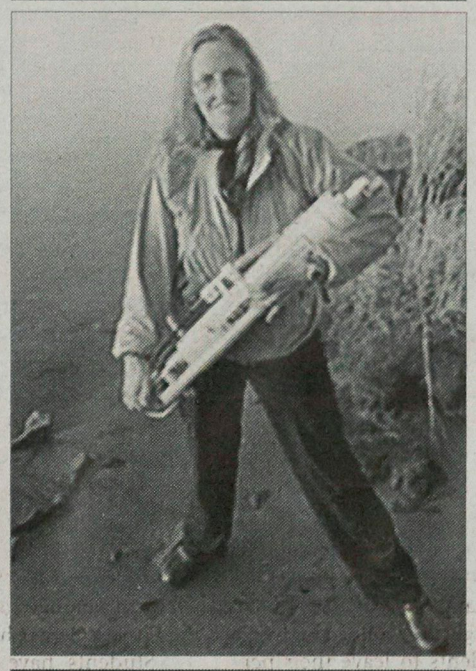
He has served as mentor for many Middlebury students who seek internships, and Liebowitz referred to him as a "most selfless individual."

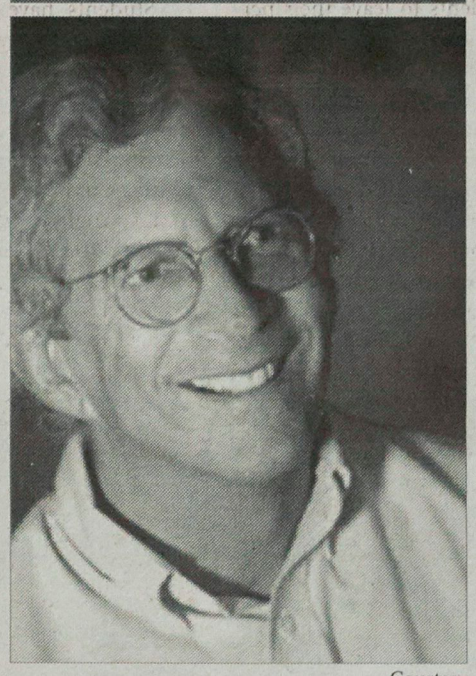
Born in Rutland, Vt., Senator Jeffords has been a member of the U.S. Senate since 1989, after serving Vermont in the House of Representatives from 1975-1988, and will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. As a Congressman, Senator Jeffords has championed legislation to strengthen our nation's education system and increase the opportunities for individuals with disabilities. He has also been one of the leading advocates in Congress for environmental protection.

Alec Webb, who will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree, is the head of Shelburne Farms on the shore of Lake Champlain in Shelburne, Vt. Over the past 30 years, Webb has transformed his property from a private estate into a multi-faceted environmental education center. Webb and Shelburne Farms plan to continue a tradition of innovative farming and land-use practices, and hope that a new educational vision will help create a sustainable future in Vermont and across the globe. "He has been a great steward of land," said Liebowitz.

Lihua Yu, one of the most influential Chinese-born women writers since World War II, will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters. Professor Yu has written 15 volumes that include novels, collections of short stories and prose; she has also written several volumes of critical works and translations. She is the mother of Anna Sun, the coordinator of the Middlebury Chinese Summer School.







Courtesy

Senator Jim Jeffords (top), Dr. Robin Bell and Dr. Richard Hodes will receive honor degrees at graduation in May, as will Lihua Yu and Alec Webb, not pictured.

public safety log

MARCH 7, 2006 TO MARCH 13, 2006

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
3/7/06	4:15-8:00 am	Theft	Wallet/Cash	Center For the Arts	Referred to MPD
3/8/06	4:30-5:45 pm	Collision	Hit and Run	T Lot	Referred to MPD
3/8/06	12:00-1:00 am	Theft	Jackets	Prescott (ADP)	No Suspects
3/9/06	2:00 pm	Theft	Wallet	Forest	No Suspects
3/10/06	5:25 am	Vandalism	Vending Machine	Coffrin	No suspects
3/11/06	1:20 am	Vandalism	Ceiling Tile	Forest	Referred to Commons Dean
3/11/06	Unknown	Vandalism	Elevator Panel	Milliken	No Suspects
3/12/06	8:40 p.m.	Vandalism	Door Window Pane	Le Chateau	No Suspects
3/12/06	2:25 a.m.	Drug Violation	Possession of Marijuana	Homestead	Referred to Commons Dean
3/13/06	9:42 p.m.	Fireworks	N/A	Battell	Referred to Commons Dean

The Department of Public Safety reported 17 alcohol violations this week. Violations occurred in Palmer, Fletcher, Milliken, 70 Hillcrest Road, Allen Hall, Pearsons, Le Chateau, Hadley and Stewart. All violations were reported to commons deans.

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY POLLY JOHNSON

UPenn students caught in fire

Six University of Pennsylvania students and one Bryn Mawr student were sent to the hospital on March 3 after a raging fire erupted at about 3:30 a.m. in a three-story student rowhouse at 4042 Sansom St., a Penn residence. While five of the seven students were treated for smoke inhalation and released the same day, the emotional toll was harder to cope with. All of the residents' belongings were lost in the fire and the residents had to be relocated to another apartment by their landlord.

The Philadelphia Fire Department responded to the call after only five minutes and the fire was under control by 4:20 a.m. Only one of the students was able to escape through the front door — the others were forced to jump from second-story windows or wait for the firefighters to rescue them.

Of the two students who were not released from the hospital the same day, one received treatment for secondary burns to the hand while the other was treated for carbon monoxide poisoning and secondary burns to the arm.

—Daily Pennsylvanian

Students opt to aid in hurricane relief over spring break

Forget body shots in Cancun. This spring break, over 1,000 students at 20 liberal arts colleges will spend their breaks volunteering in the areas of the Gulf Coast region devastated by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Schools that have reported students who are to volunteer include Gettysburg College, Colgate University, Dickinson College and Colorado College, among many others. Students are not just spending their time over spring break volunteering. From Macalester College, 21 students and seven staff members traveled to Gulfport, Miss. during the month of January to assist with all aspects of hurricane relief. Such duties included removing asbestos, cleaning houses and rebuilding homes. At Bard College, 130 students volunteered their help over winter break and are planning a return trip in May.

—Collegenews.org

Feel the breeze of helicopter parents

Do you have "helicopter parents?" Colleges and universities around the country have noticed a rise in parents who "hover" over every aspect of their children's lives. The term was coined by elementary school teachers in the early 90s, according to the Indianapolis Star. The dean of admissions at DePauw University, Stefanie Niles, notes that this trend of overly protective parents has escalated over the last three years. The article notes a mother of a student at the University of Indianapolis who requested that her son be moved to a single room because she did not like the mother of her son's roommate. The article suggests that these "soccer moms and dads" who have been involved with every aspect of their son's or daughter's childhood are finding it hard to let go once their children are off to college. With the ease of reaching their kids — through e-mail and cell phones — parents can meedle instantaneously.

—Indystar.com

localnews

Blue Hen buyout to bring upscale store

Middlebury resident plans redesign with April opening

By Rachel Durfee
Staff Writer

The Blue Hen Kitchen and Market will be renamed the Middlebury Market and Café when it reopens in April. A sign outside the Blue Hen on College Street reads, "Closed for Renovations. Reopening in April." Sama Hayyat, a Middlebury resident, purchased the Blue Hen from its former owner in early March and hired an architect to redesign the space, which houses a grocery store in the front and a food service and eating area in the back of the store.

That basic interior layout will remain the same, but the overall look will change, according to the new owner. Hayyat wants to make the brick oven behind the food counter a focal point, and plans to use it to bake lasagna and chicken in addition to the pizza that has become a lunch and dinner staple. The entire store will be trimmed in mahogany in order to give a true "country store feeling" to the establishment.

Hayyat, who was born in Middlebury and is a graduate of Middlebury Union High School, left town for college and then worked in restaurants on Block Island off the Rhode Island coast. After returning to Middlebury, Hayyat first began to discuss buying the Blue Hen in December 2005. The sale became official on March 2 of this year. Hayyat himself will do most of the cooking and serving in the back while his wife will work at the counter up front.

There will be wholesome, fuller foods.
—Sama Hayyat, new owner

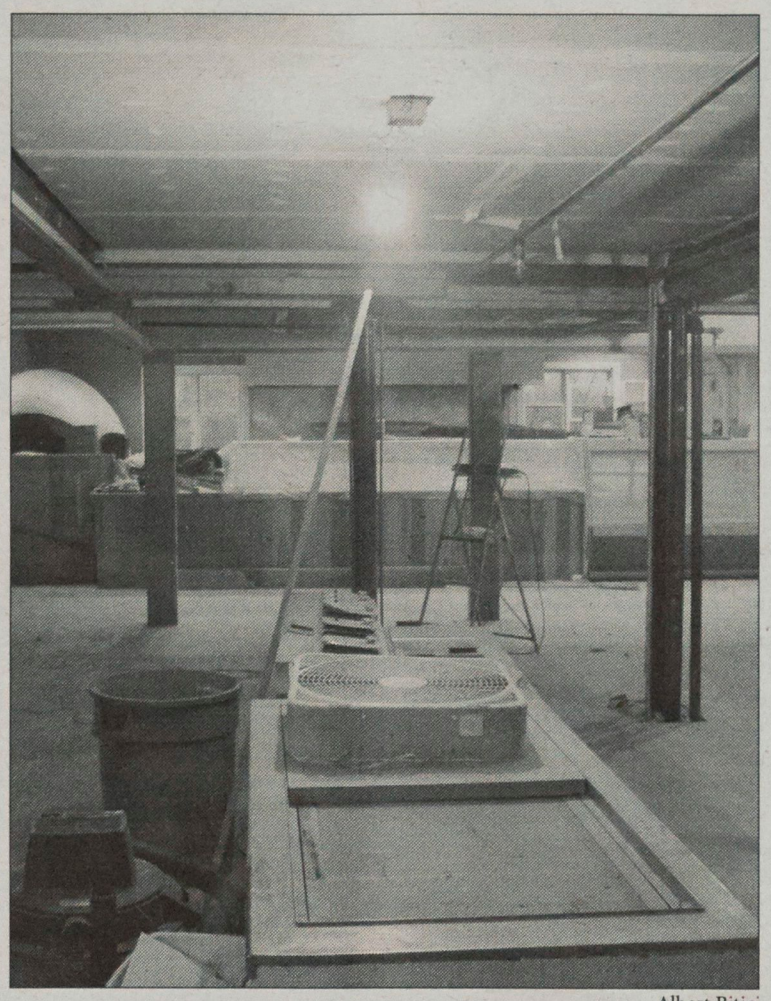
"It's a family affair," he said grinning. As a Middlebury native, Hayyat has received widespread support from Middlebury residents and says he feels a "real sense of community" in pursuing this venture.

One of his main goals as owner and manager is to attract more College students to the store. "People tend to think of [College students] as up on the hill, as really separate from the town, but they shouldn't be," Hayyat said.

He hopes to make the Middlebury Market and Café a place where both College students and Middlebury residents can mingle and be "one big community." He said that the business's location — on College Street just past Twilight Hall — makes it ideal for students, as it is the closest establishment to the College campus. He also added that an expanded seating area in back and the addition of cappuccino and espresso drinks to the menu will make the space more conducive to studying as well.

The new market will be slightly more upscale than the Blue Hen or Baba's, although the prices will remain the same. "It's really important that our customers get the best value," said Hayyat.

New additions include an expanded ice cream scoop shop in the summer months, new bathrooms, grab-and-go breakfast featuring fresh-baked muffins and pastries and a more comprehensive selection of wines. Hayyat also hopes to sell kegs. In general, said Hayyat, "there will be wholesome, fuller foods." The popular lunch items, such as panini sandwiches and wraps, will stay, as will the ATM, grocery items, cigarettes and cigars.



Albert Bitici

Despite its desolate state, the Blue Hen will soon reopen as the Middlebury Market and Cafe with a new and improved look and menu.

Hayyat had not yet been contacted by Middkid.com about joining the group of local businesses who provide discounts to College students with a Middkid.com card, but said he would be very interested in adding the Middlebury Market to the list. Another business-savvy move of Hayyat's is starting an online business Web site where College parents can order care packages filled with anything — "whether it be candy or beer or whatever" — to send to stressed-out students during midterms or finals week. Hayyat will also offer catering service.

Hayyat described the Middlebury Market as being "traditional American style with a twist" and said that, come April, there will be an overall "more vibrant" atmosphere that will hopefully be appealing to students and town residents alike.

6
SPIFFING UP
BLUE HEN CLOSES FOR RENOVATION, NAME CHANGE

7
BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER OTTER
TOWN RESIDENTS APPROVE CROSS STREET BRIDGE

7
LA BONNE BOUFFE
CHRISTOPHE' S ON THE GREEN SERVES UP FRENCH FAVORITES

On Tap at Up's

Albert Bitici

Although a bartender at Mr. Up's was issued a citation two weeks ago for furnishing alcohol to a minor, the bar and restaurant are continuing normal service, according to a manager at Mr. Up's who wished to remain anonymous. In response to an investigation into underage drinking, the manager said that the bar is enforcing the policies already in place, including checking ID's, but that service, both for food and alcohol, will continue as before. "We are tryng to do our best to make sure we are upholding the law," she said. And while the establishment has been closing down the bar earlier to prevent over-serving, the Wednesday night dollar-draft specials are still available.

New bridge gains voter's approval

By Katherine Doorley
Local News Editor

Middlebury residents have voted to approve plans for a new bridge across Otter Creek. At the recent Town Meeting, the bridge proposal asking, "Shall the Town support the Cross Street Bridge location and conceptual intersection design and circulation as recommended by the Bridge Committee and the Select Board?" passed affirmatively by a margin of approximately 3-1, allowing town planners to take the next steps toward building the new bridge.

Building a new bridge over Otter Creek has been discussed frequently throughout the town's history. In fact, every independent traffic engineering analysis conducted for the town over the past 50 years or so has recommended building an additional bridge over the Creek in order to improve traffic conditions. Among the motivations for a new bridge across the Creek are the relief of traffic congestion that builds up in downtown Middlebury and an additional route around town for emergency vehicles. Furthermore, it could act as a detour, allowing Battell Bridge and the railroad bridge in town to be repaired. The need to make repairs to the Battell Bridge and the railroad bridge on Main Street and Merchants Row was often cited by town officials and supporters of the bridge proposal, as a motivation for passing the proposal.

The new bridge across Otter Creek will be located just north of Mr. Up's at Cross Street. In addition to building the bridge, the proposal also contained a plan for a new roundabout to help traffic circulate at the intersection of Cross Street, South Main Street, Main Street and College Street. The two proposals combined will reduce traffic congestion by an estimated 50 percent.

While some residents of the Cross Street area raised concerns about the increase in traffic circulation and the safety of pedestrians in their neighborhood, the town residents voted 695-203 to support the proposal to build a new bridge, keeping with their votes on past proposals.

Town Planner Fred Dunnington said, "In my time with the Town, this was the third time Middlebury voters supported the Cross St. Bridge [the bridge was previously proposed in 1983 and 1992]. Actually, the voters have always strongly supported an in-town bridge. There has never been a negative vote."

In a related proposal, town residents voted 666-226 to "appropriate $75,000 for preliminary engineering, design and planning for the proposed Cross Street Bridge." This money will most likely be used as initial matching funds for State and Federal grants.

Albert Bitici

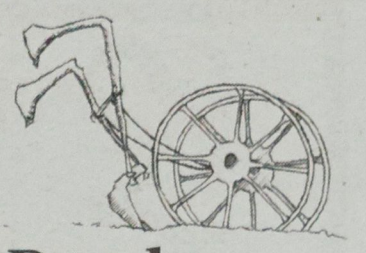
Drivers wishing to traverse Otter Creek will soon have another option with the approval of the Cross Street Bridge.

Now that the bridge has been approved, town officials are beginning to seek out funding for the bridge, which will be paid for through a combination of State and Federal funds as well as local bonds.

"Although a donor would be wonderful, we do expect to work on securing the funding through the State and Federal government sources with a local bond vote. We are exploring some creative (for government) ideas on financing," said Dunnington. "If a donor offered to pay for it tomorrow, we would retain a design-build firm and move to final design and engineering with simultaneous property acquisition and the Bridge could conceivably be completed as fast as about two to three years."

However, since finding a donor to pay the entire $16 million the bridge is estimated to cost is unlikely, the town will need to hold off on finalizing design and construction plans until the funding is secured. Dunnington summarized the final process: "There is strong community interest in the final design details and all this will mean more time and bringing it all back for an ultimate local bond vote. How soon depends on how soon the State and Federal agreements can be reached — which under their current backlog of projects could be a few years."

Despite the fact that the Bridge was strongly approved by town voters, there is no indication that it will be completed any time in the immediate future. However, the recent Town Meeting vote means that once funding is definitively secured, future Middlebury students and town residents will hopefully spend less time in their cars waiting to cross Otter Creek.



Rural Banter

BY ERICA GOODMAN

In small towns where the village center usually consists of a main road and two, maybe three more densely populated avenues, parents generally do not warn their children to stay "off da street." Instead of the sight of drug hustlin', the streets in rural villages are simply what you cross to get to the other side. The "bad kids" (i.e. those who smoke cigarettes) in my hometown dealt their wares in the mysterious place known as "behind the school bus garage," and staying away from there, explained McGruff the Crime Dog (or was it Biggie Smalls?), would assure us to get from negative to positive, it's all good.

Nostalgic images of rural America today still suggest that small towns, farming communities and the open country are "crime free." Relative to the problems of some large urban communities, rural areas do look like havens of safety. Yet for the news media, crime would seem to be the only thing in rural America worth talking about. A recent report from the W.K. Kellog Foundation regarding perceptions of rural America in the media found that 78 percent of TV news stories with the appearance of the word "rural" focused on crime. Print media has shared an equally shocking attention to the threats of living in the dangerous countryside.

The press attention may seem a negative interpretation of rural life, but it also sheds light upon very real problems. Apart from unusual and out of the ordinary violent crime, criminal news about rural communities generally focuses on drug problems. In the last several years, news stories have centered on the boom of methamphetamines. Forget the streets of Compton. "Rural roads," warns a reporter from the Oregon paper the *Mail Tribune*, "are crime magnets." Recent press attention to "meth" use has described the spread of the highly addictive drug as if it were the plague. "It's creeping," warns one Minnesota paper. "It's coming your way."

In some communities where meth-related crimes have been particularly awful, there is too much criminal activity for the county sheriff to control. Citizens throughout rural communities have vowed to take action into their own hands. As a resident of Savage Creek, Ore., explains in the *Tribune*, "It's our community and we want to take it back for the people who are living here peacefully. We're not vigilantes. We're not sitting out there with shotguns, waiting for them — because they stole my shotgun."

Drug-related crime in the United States takes on a multitude of faces and hits us in the largest and smallest communities. And so, without their trusty 12-guage, the people of rural America are trying to take back their communities from the behind-the-bus-garage criminals. Only with time, and the continued media attention to rural drug problems, will they be successful in taking a bite out of crime.

THE LOCAL FLAVOR

By Daniel L. J. Phillips
Associate Editor

Christophe's on the Green
5 Green Street
Vergennes, VT 05491
(802) 877-3413

The next time you make the drive up Route 7 to Vergennes, resist the urge to turn left for Black Sheep and treat yourself to an amazing meal at Christophe's on the Green, located in the Stevens House on the corner of Main Street. Serving innovative French country cuisine in an elegant setting, Christophe's is the perfect place to commemorate a special occasion. Just be sure to bring a thick wallet — or your parents' — because this is the most expensive restaurant in the nearby area. When ordering from the dinner menu, appetizers are $9.50 each and entrées are $26.50 a piece.

Owned by chef Christophe Lissarrague and his wife Alice, the décor features cream yellow walls and exposed brown beams, accented by thick-framed country windows and a few unimposing paintings. The service is also very sophisticated, offering a complementary palate cleanser before the appetizers — ours was an oyster baked with cheese in its half shell — and a small plate of sweets with the check.

For the best sampling of the kitchen, I highly recommend ordering the six-course Tasting Menu for two people, which includes two starters, two entrées, a cheese tray and an assortment of desserts. The order or variety cannot be substituted, but each item appears individually on the regular dinner menu. The Tasting Menu begins with the Portobello mushroom tarte tatin and watercress salad, followed by the grilled quail with a lentil salad and foie gras, both of which are light, full of flavor and two of the restaurant's best dishes. The parsnip soup with marinated scallops is another outstanding appetizer that can be ordered from the regular menu.

After the quail, the Tasting Menu proceeds with the slow poached Maine lobster with chive polenta and tarragon sauce, which was quite heavy and rich. While it was a nice treat out of season, the claw, tail and leg of the lobster were slightly overcooked. This was followed by the roasted lamb loin with eggplant, barley and flax seed on a butternut squash sauce, which was my favorite main dish of the evening. The lamb was delicate and savory, while the Pommery mustard and vegetables created the ideal balance of sweet and sour. Other entrée highlights include Christophe's grilled swordfish and chicken brochette dish and the smoked and roasted free-range chicken with leek and mushroom.

Moving on to the cheese tray, you will have a choice between three goat cheeses or several other Pyrénées-style cheeses, all of which are served with walnut bread and quince jelly. For our dessert selection, we were served almond chocolate croquettes with ice cream, rice pudding in baked phyllo and a delicious pear pastry soaked in Grand Marnier. I strongly recommend a hit of Illy espresso to finish off the meal and perk you up for the drive home.

Alas, great taste does not come cheap — the total per couple of the Tasting Menu amounts to $120. For an extra $70, each of the six courses is carefully paired with a glass of wine to compliment the fare. However, I found the service was lacking in this regard when the wine arrived several minutes later than each Tasting Menu dish.

Not surprisingly, Christophe's stocks an impressive wine list, mostly from a number of well-known French producers from the major regions. Among the wines from the Tasting Menu, the Louis Latour Montagny 2001 (Chardonnay) was a refreshing but subtle blend of fruit and oak to start the evening. The Aloxe-Corton 1998 (Burgundy) was a strong choice as well, since the fruit and acidity paired nicely with the lamb. You can find some excellent French selections in the $30-range, but you will have to pay slightly more for the boutique Napa producers — Matanzas Creek and Kistler being the strong Chardonnay choices — while the California Cabernet Sauvignon wines were a bit pricey and might overpower the delicate flavors of Christophe's French country cuisine.

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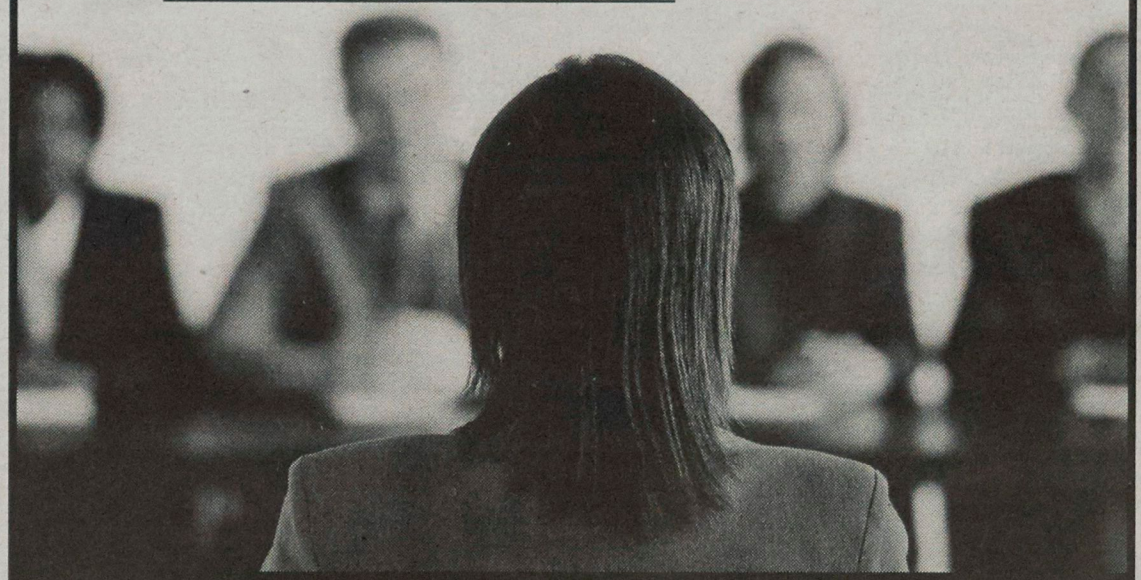

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Editorial

Smoking: enhanced regulation not yet needed

The Campus certainly does not endorse cigarettes, but the issue that emerges from the recent debates following Community Council's proposal to ban smoking at the entryways to campus buildings is not a matter of health, but one of championing personal accountability over the implementation of increasingly draconian restrictions.

Those who choose to smoke are made constantly aware of the dangers cigarettes pose to others and themselves. The College can and should educate students about the dangers of smoking by continuing to supply the flood of anti-smoking material available in the lobbies of Parton Health Center, for example. The College should not, however, approve punitive measures in regards to smoking without first giving smokers a chance to respond of their own accord to the complaints recently voiced by nonsmokers .

Middlebury students are generally responsive to such requests. Though the continuation of the Collegiate Readership Program was recently threatened by the failure of readers to return newspapers to news stands outside the dining halls, students seem to have rectified their disrespectful behavior when faced with losing their newspaper privileges all together.

Following this line of thought, the Student Government Association (SGA) idea concentrating on increasing awareness and mutual respect between smokers and non-smokers is the best course of action to pursue at this point.

Before taking another step forward in implementing legislation, the Community Council should sponsor a study to determine the key locations on campus where smoke is concentrated and bothering passersby — likely the library, Proctor terrace and the entrance to Warner Hall. All efforts should be made to make smokers aware of the discomfort they cause in these areas.

If smokers fail to respond, Public Safety officers may need the authority to give citations to students for smoking directly in the doorways of the aforementioned buildings. The situation need not even come to that, and a ban on smoking within 50 feet of all building entrances will not be necessary in any case.

Those who have decried the recent discussions should be reminded of the vastly inferior process by which the ban on smoking in residence halls was instated in the spring of 2004. Alternatives, such as a gradual process of designating some residence halls smoke free, were not discussed. At that time, there was no discussion in Community Council or the SGA either. In terms of student input and transparency, the situation has greatly improved, though the many students shocked by the mere discussion of banning smoking on campus may not realize this.

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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HEARD ON CAMPUS

MIDDLEBURY STUDENTS, NOT THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE THE ONES TO DETERMINE WHAT THE SOCIAL LIFE ON CAMPUS LOOKS LIKE.

- Ann Hanson, dean of Student Affairs, in an all-student e-mail last week.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

After reading last week's front page article on the debate over the College smoking ban, I found myself agreeing with Reference and Instruction Librarian Brenda Ellis' claim that she would be satisfied if the results of the dialogue did nothing more then raise smokers' awareness.

After all, it was a front page article, *The Middlebury Campus* is a well-read publication, and we like to think of ourselves, I hope, as a tolerant, compassionate, understanding community that respects the difference of opinion and difference of choice amongst our student body.

Ideally, that would extend to respecting a person's choice not to do something and, I imagine, an effort not to force the effects of one's actions on another. I was surprised, then, yesterday evening when I arrived at Proctor Dining Hall to find a group of smokers blocking the entrance on that beautiful balmy evening.

I had no choice but to walk through the cloud of smoke that Director of Parton Health Center Mark Peluso had deemed "unacceptable." I was even more shocked to hear them complaining of the proposed ban.

Clearly, awareness of the issue has been raised—the respect for nonsmokers, however, has not been engaged.

I am not advocating a complete ban because I believe that would violate a person's right to choose to smoke. What I do strongly support is a measure that will allow one person's decision to be kept from affecting others, since awareness of the issue has unfortunately not made a difference.

Sincerely,
Chrissy Fulton '08
Concord, N.H.

To the Editor:

The March 2 opinion piece by Michael Jou entitled "Think about it, global warming does not exist" can be summed up in one word: paradoxical.

Jou claims that he wrote this article "to incite the reader to question global warming, to not accept science at face value and to become informed." However, he presents his argument in such a way as to immediately alienate any reader at all concerned with global warming.

His first line reeks of a tirade in the making — "environmental scientists are off their rockers" — and his subsequent assemblage of less than reputable "facts" bodes poorly for any sort of reasoned argument. It is only after this laundry list that the reader is informed that this is not a clear case of anti-environmental propaganda, but a teaching model, aimed at getting Middlebury students to question their "liberal" beliefs. The environment is not a liberal issue, it is a world issue. Just ask Senator John McCain. It is important to question, it is important to consider.

Perhaps Jou had an opportunity to inspire thoughtful debate. Instead, he tossed his hat into the ring with Crichtons and crackpots — and what good does that do anyone?

Sincerely,
Max Nardini '08
New York, N.Y.

Larry Kramer: help me help you

Larry Kramer's lecture made me angry, which is both good and bad. It's good because I think his goal was to make me angry, so he succeeded. It's bad, however, because I don't think he meant for me to be mad at *him*.

Kramer meant to make me angry at the right wing cabal that has taken over America, and in that he failed. I was *already* angry with them, long before Kramer came to speak. Now, I'm angry with him and with the elder generations of every activist movement in America. I am angry that Kramer and other older activists constantly tell our generation that we are lazy and complacent. I am angry that, when our generation gets mad and *does* take action, the older generations don't give us the credit we deserve.

I am not alone. Third Wave, "Girlie" feminists like Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, authors of the book "Manifesta," have made careers of similar anger. So much of these women's time and energy is being dedicated to proving their worth to their elders that they are often unable to focus on the actual work of feminism! They are not the only ones fighting this fight — the same things happen in the gay activist communities, the African-American activist communities and any other group that has not been accorded its rightful place in the American public sphere.

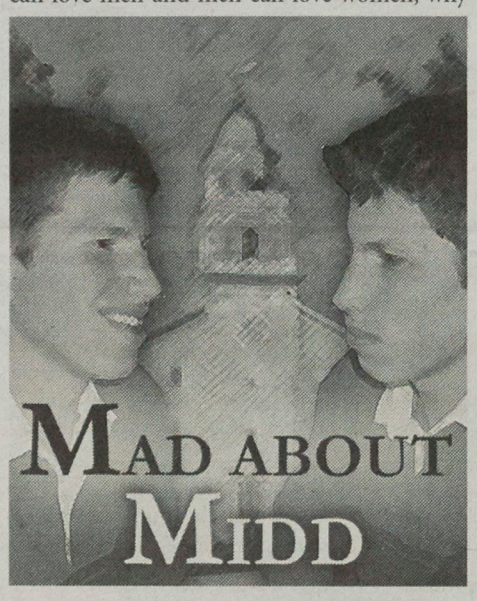
Some of Kramer's comments specific to the gay activist community made me the angriest. For example, Kramer was off-base when he said that bisexuality is a cop-out. Not all bisexuals are people afraid to identify as gay. If men can love men and men can love women, why is it somehow inconceivable that men can love men *and* women? Mr. Kramer also referred to the current lack of activism in the gay population. While I agree that there has been no socio-political movement equal to the power of his ACT-UP group, I would argue that there is a powerful undercurrent of sexual activism in American culture. Television shows like "The L Word" or "Queer as Folk," whatever your objections to their aesthetic realism, are nothing if not new forms of activism.The existence of the Logo network and other emerging queer television networks mark not only the continued action of gay activism, but the incredible advances the next generation of gay activists has made!

It saddens me and sickens me that we are so desperate for voices that in some way represent us that we applaud past generations even when they get it wrong and ignore the people currently fighting for us even when they get it

While ACT-UP certainly accomplished a lot within a political context, it is the cultural and social contexts in which current activists are working.

The thing that probably upset me most about Kramer's speech was the audience reaction. Larry Kramer stood up and, basically, insulted a large number of us, and we gave him not one but several standing ovations! Although some of us did so in deference to his previous work for the cause, some of us were probably just so glad to have someone standing up and talking about our issues that it didn't even matter what he said. It saddens me and sickens me that we are so desperate for voices that in some way represent us that we applaud past generations even when they get it wrong and ignore the people currently fighting for us even when they get it right. I am an activist. Moreover, I am an activist filled with righteous anger, which inspires me daily to fight against the "right-wing cabal" of the American government and the smaller every-day inequalities and discriminations to which I am subject. It saddens me, however, that for me and activists like me, much of the time on the battlefield is spent fighting against the men and women who should be our biggest allies — the generations who came before us.

REBECCA JONES '08
A HISTORY AND PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR
FROM STRONGSVILLE, OHIO



City planning anyone?

By Dave Barker
OPINION COLUMNIST

Middlebury voters overwhelmingly supported the Cross Street Bridge location last week at the annual town meeting. I hope the $75,000 appropriated for the preliminary planning and engineering of the span that will cut across Otter Creek next to Mr. Up's leads to the construction of a bridge after a half-century of bickering and dallying. Perhaps an even bigger infrastructural improvement went missing from the ballot last week: the relocation of the Municipal Building where voters convened.

Many correctional institutions have more charm than the municipal gym and adjoining town offices located at the corner of College and South Main Streets. Constructed in the late 1930s with a WPA grant to serve as the town high school, the building has plumbing, electrical, ventilation and accessibility problems.

Discussion of relocation last arose in 2002 when the College offered to provide $3 million of the cost of constructing a new town hall that would be located to the south at Maple Manor. College leaders planned for a park in place of the Municipal building. The town didn't take the offer and in November 2002, voters even rejected a bond measure to build a new municipal building at the existing site. Faced with severe property taxes, Middlebury voters are understandably wary when it comes to new building projects, but I can't help but imagine ways to better utilize the land.

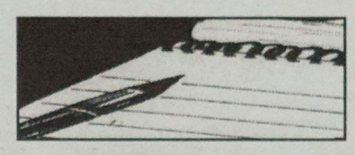
I am tempted to propose an extension of the commercial amenities of Main Street that would conveniently serve college students. A second Bev-Co or cheap eatery/bar (crepe shack anyone?) could be profitable so close to campus. However, the town lacks public space that draws together residents and college students. When was the last time you saw the Town Green being used for anything besides a demonstration?

I envision a public space that would be both park and town meeting area. The more athletically inclined could duke it out on basketball or roller hockey courts. Shuffleboard and chess would accommodate those carrying AARP cards.

Two buildings would be added to the space. A smaller town hall (who goes these days anyway?) akin to the picturesque buildings in Ripton or Cornwall would double as a political meeting space and as a studio for activities like yoga and Tai Chi. Trust me on the former — yoga isn't just for those who eschew Lucky Charms for granola. Tai Chi will become even more popular as our parents near retirement.

A second building will serve as an art gallery where College and town artists could display their own work or collaborate and teach classes to kids. Too much of student work here gets relegated to Johnson or to the first floor of John McCardell, Jr., Bicentennial Hall. To see the work of local artists, you need $30 for a nice dinner at Tully and Marie's.

Money and naming rights for the new park would be the work of a public-private partnership. Of course, if any of these ideas are used, I expect a statue of myself, David — preferably clothed.



NOTES
FROM THE DESK

The article in *The Campus* last week about the Career Services (CSO) Spring Job Fling blew my mind. In particular I refer to the comments made by Susan Walker, the Associate Director for Internships. Speaking of the job search process for current seniors, she said, "What's important now is to begin the process, to know how to do it when you're ready to do it, so after your year of skiing in Vail is over, you know how to research, how to write a resume and cover letter and how to network." *After your year of skiing in Vail is over*? Unbelievable.

This comment only goes to illustrate just how out of touch the Career Services Office is with the student body. If this is how we, the students, are perceived by the people who are charged with the responsibility of helping us find what we want to do with our lives, we had better get familiar with monster.com. An enormous number of seniors are trying desperately to find a source of post-graduation employment, many of whom need to establish an income source to pay off debts, fund graduate school or, in my case, simply stay in the country. As an international student, and there are many of us, the next couple of months represent a make-or-break period in which we will find out whether or not we can stay in the United States for the foreseeable future. The suggestion that most Middlebury students have the luxury of being able to swan off to Vail for a year before thinking about employment would be insulting enough were it to come from a fellow student, but to learn that it came from a member of CSO is nothing short of disgraceful. It trivializes our efforts and only serves to reinforce the "spoiled" and "preppy middle-class" reputation with which Middlebury students are regularly labeled.

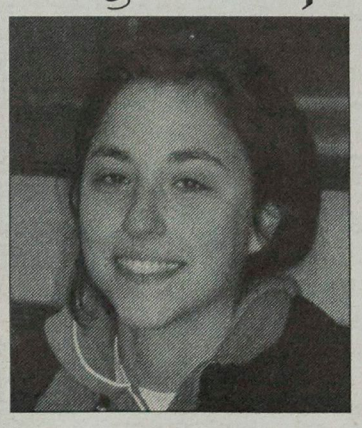
Perhaps this should not come as a complete shock, however. We are talking about the same Career Services Office that produced a handout for the "Job Fling" and told me, "I don't know if these are entry-level jobs, they should be, I just pulled them off the Web today." And the same office that, when I told a member of the organization (who I prefer to leave nameless for the sake of her reputation) I was going to complete a J-Term internship with General Electric, responded, "Right… what do they do?" While a better question might have been "What don't they do?," as the third largest company in the world, I was particularly ashamed since my father happened to be present at the time. "Yes, Dad, this is the office that will help me find a career" seemed somewhat hollow. No one will accuse CSO of being perfect, but it has recently illustrated just how imperfect it truly is. I have much more to say, but unfortunately I need to wrap up, I still haven't booked my ticket to Vail yet.

— TOM MCCANN, SPORTS EDITOR

The Middlebury Campus online poll

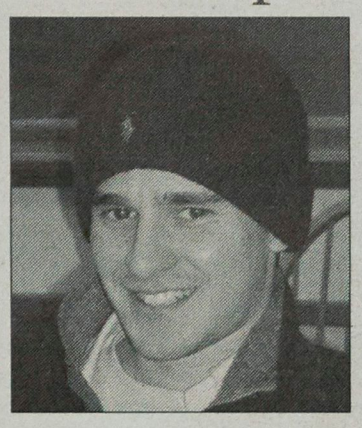
"I DON'T THINK THE POLICY SHOULD BE CHANGED, I THINK THERE ARE BIGGER ISSUES."

—BROOKE SIEM '08



"SMOKING IS GROSS, EVERYONE SHOULD STOP."

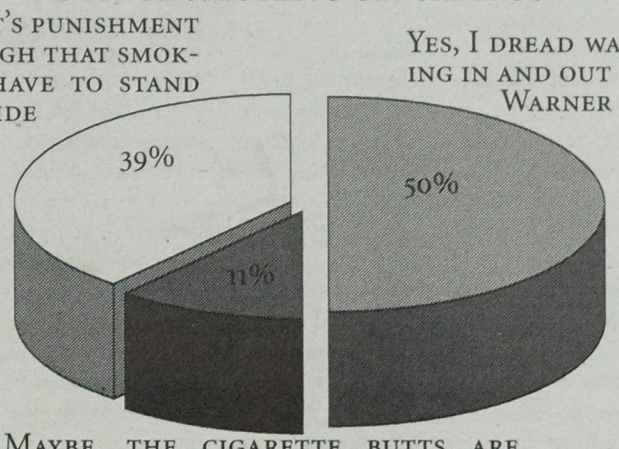
—FRANCESCA FILIPPELLI '06



"BAN SMOKING AND WE WON'T HAVE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ANYMORE."

—TYLER FURNARI '06

DOES MIDDLEBURY NEED TO FURTHER RESTRICT SMOKING ON CAMPUS?

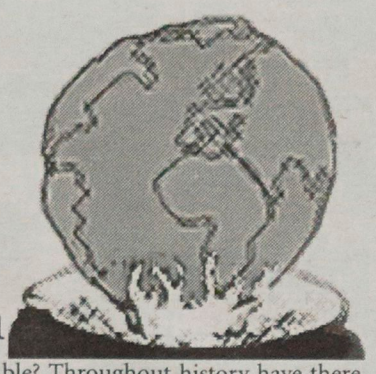

NO, IT'S PUNISHMENT ENOUGH THAT SMOKERS HAVE TO STAND OUTSIDE
39%
11%
YES, I DREAD WALKING IN AND OUT OF WARNER
50%
MAYBE, THE CIGARETTE BUTTS ARE RATHER UNSIGHTLY

Results based on 51 responses collected between April 8 and April 13 at www.middleburycampus.com

NEXT WEEK'S POLL QUESTION: DOES MIDDLEBURY DESERVE ITS' PREPPY REP?

Global warming

A challenge to our generation



At Middlebury, we students have the opportunity to not only gain an understanding of the current state of the world, but also to practice the valuable critical thinking skills that will allow us to succeed in diverse occupations and to live purposeful lives. How we discuss important issues such as global warming reflects a more personal matter of what we, as students, take these critical thinking skills to be. Michael Jou's article in *The Middlebury Campus* two weeks ago ["Think about it, global warming does not exist," *March 2*] was "written to incite the reader to question global warming." I believe in testing the quality of our knowledge, but I'd like to contribute a better representation of what I believe critical thinking skills should entail.

Thinking critically about a topic requires accurate and precise knowledge of facts. For example, while it is true that glaciers in Greenland are not receding, that does not mean that climate change is not affecting Greenland. In fact, the glaciers are sliding into the sea. A recent *Science* article (v. 311, pp. 986-990) finds that the speed at which Greenland glaciers are moving into the sea is twice what was previously thought and is accelerating, due to warming.

Beyond understanding the facts, there is a more important issue of the construction of arguments and what constitutes "thinking critically" about a topic. Probably not unlike many other Middlebury students, I learned to write five-paragraph essays in middle school. This was how I was formally introduced to the idea of a persuasive essay where a main argument is proposed, and supporting evidence is presented. But should we give equal weight to any opinion that can be supported with evidence? For example, if we can give some evidence of cooling in some parts of the world, is this evidence against global warming? In examining complex issues, the paradigm that any opinion that can be supported with some evidence must be valid breaks down rather quickly. In terms of the case in question, the scientific community has increasingly emphasized that global warming is a component of global climate change, a model in which increased climate variability and the complex effects of changing climate patterns imply that some regions may undergo periods of cooling. Evidence pointing to slight cooling in specific regions is thus not evidence against global warming, but fits in with the global climate change model.

These facts bring to light a fundamental problem of applying the simple argument/supporting evidence model to writing about real world issues — sometimes the world turns out to be rather complex. When I think about the issue of global warming and Michael Crichton's "State of Fear," a number of questions come to mind. Firstly, what does Crichton actually believe related to climate change? In a radio interview with NPR's Ira Flatow addressing "State of Fear," Crighton said, "No one is denying that temperature is increasing, it is." Secondly, what is the issue in question? Crichton is questioning whether the rise in temperature is due to anthropogenic emission of CO_2.

So the issue is really whether global warming is anthropogenically caused. Crichton is accusing environmental scientists of academic dishonesty — is this plausible? Throughout history have there been any examples of an entire field of scientists falsifying knowledge? Is the system of writing grants set up in such a way that there is pressure on scientists to present false data that global warming is anthropogenically caused? Personally I would be more inclined to think that corporations, entities that are legally bound to exploit their workforce and the environment when it is in the interests of their shareholders, would have a stake in suppressing information about the cause of global warming. And since the media are owned by corporations, well, I'm just glad information about global warming is available. In any case, these are the kinds of questions we need to address to have an informed discussion of Crichton's version of global warming. And, in a broader sense, these questions help us examine global climate change from multiple perspectives. For me, critical thinking must always involve this strategy of studying a single issue from varying viewpoints.

One example of an environmental problem that has been solved is that of ozone depletion. Science informed policy, and governments signed the Montreal Protocol banning CFCs, the cause of the depletion. That was a problem that was relatively easy to solve. In the case of CO_2, reducing emissions will entail large-scale economic, if not lifestyle change. This is a challenge that we, as a generation must face. But to do so we need to think critically about the problem and about potential solutions.

RYAN GAMBLE '06
A BIO-CHEMISTRY MAJOR
FROM ENGLEWOOD, COLO.

Homesick much?

Spring break starts tomorrow, so if you are reading this article, your mind is probably elsewhere. You may be dreaming of San Diego, where you will relax on the beach in between your track workouts. Or perhaps you are imagining how crazy it will get when you visit your old high school buddy at Georgetown. I want to know what those of you who are going home for the week are thinking. Are you dreading it because you know you will fight with your parents? Are you dying to get back to your cozy bed and clean, private bathroom? Maybe you just don't know what to feel.

Near the end of my senior year in high school, I asked my mom if she was excited to see me go off to college. She told me that of course she was, but there was something else, too. She said something I remember perfectly to this day, which is impressive since I rarely listen to her. She said, "Once you go to college, things are never the same. It's not necessarily bad; it's just the truth. You'll come home and visit, but it will never really be the same between us." I had no idea what she could have meant. Why would things change after I left for school, and how would they be different?

> The feeling is elusive and hard to verbalize — but I sense it.

Now, after only six months at Middlebury, I get it. The feeling is elusive and hard to verbalize — but I sense it. There may be some obvious changes. I, for one, see it in the way I get along with my parents when I am home now (far better than we ever did when I was in high school). Maybe you notice a change in other aspects of the way they treat you. They could be less strict, or more generous with money, or maybe they no longer try to influence your decisions as often. But aside from all that, there lies something else as well. It's like a hidden feeling that you can't quite put your finger on.

It has to do with the mood that washes over you when you come home for vacation. It is like Odysseus returning home after years of adventures at sea. Okay, it's not really like that. And yes, clearly I'm a nerd. But seriously, there is a universal change that occurs between parents and child when the kid goes off to school. Everyone I know has felt it in some strange, abstract way.

I say the change is universal because it does not matter if you left your Detroit apartment to come to Middlebury, Vt., or if you grew up in Santa Barbara, Calif., and stayed right there for four years at UCSB. The notion of "home" still undergoes a transformation. A friend of mine goes to Boston College, a mere 10 minutes from his Brookline, Mass., house, and yet he identifies the feeling as well. This kid has dinner with his parents almost every weekend, but whenever he rolls up to the house he grew up in, he is overcome by this phantom nostalgia.

It is not about the cliché "first time away from home." I spent six summers in Maine at camp, and a summer in England. I was not homesick, nor am I today. There is just something about knowing that you no longer need your parents on a daily basis. I guess you could claim that you did not need them in high school either, but that's a weak argument — do not pretend you cooked your own meals.

You at least have to see a difference between coming home from a day at school and telling your mom in that annoyed tone, "My day was *fine*," and returning after three months in college, and saying honestly, "I missed you too!" Maybe I sound like an idiot, and nobody knows what I am talking about. But if you are headed home this spring break, ask yourself how you feel when you walk into your bedroom for the first time in months.

DANIEL ROBERTS '09
AN ENGLISH MAJOR
FROM NEWTON, MASS.

Socially Responsible Investment is here to stay

At a rapidly increasing number of colleges across the country, students are organizing in a growing movement to question the practices behind the investment of their schools' multi-million-dollar endowments. Guided by social, ethical and environmental concerns, they see to monitor their colleges' investment portfolios in an effort to ensure that those practices abide by greater standards of corporate responsibility, while positively contributing to the local, national and global economy.

These students are rallying behind the call for Socially Responsible Investment (SRI), a process by which investors (including colleges) generate positive social capital by selectively investing in or divesting from, companies and funds. Based on guidelines determined by members of an investment community – from students all the way to administrators – and the shareholders of the companies in question.

This type of investment gained special prominence during the 1980s when many institutions of higher education moved to divest from corporations with business interests profiting from the apartheid regime of South Africa. Middlebury College was invested in South Africa, and was one school to engage in divestment of such holdings after students and faculty protested together to demand change.

SRI has proven instrumental not only as a force in positive social change, but has also been tremendously effective economically, sparking increased economic interest in investor and investee, and brought equal or greater returns for the investment community. Engaging in a policy of SRI does not mean incurring an economic loss—no money is being given away and the goal is still to maintain high returns on the invested capital. The difference between SRI and traditional investing is that the increase in our endowment does not come at the cost of social injustice and environmental harm; instead—it flourishes through ties to creative, hardworking, socially responsible entrepreneurs who benefit mutually from our investment in them.

Today, many more schools, including Amherst, Stanford, Dartmouth, Columbia, Barnard, Yale and Brown, have all established officially-recognized committees on SRI. These committees are designed to ensure that their institutions' endowments remain as fully *transparent* as possible to all members of the community, so that instances of questionable investment policy and specific investment issues may be adequately addressed in an official, democratic format.

In recent weeks, through the work of their respective committees, Amherst, Yale and Brown have announced that they will be divesting from companies engaged in business in the Sudanese region of Darfur, where acts of genocide are currently being perpetrated upon civilians by government-backed militia forces. The line between the violent atrocities and the role of corporations invested in the region remains tenuous and disconcerting – and the world community has come woefully late to Darfur's aid.

This instance is only one of the more powerful reasons why college investment policy is critical. Middlebury College currently lacks a committee through which students and faculty can view our endowment portfolio and voice their concerns on its investment. There is currently no transparency with respect to our endowment – and hence we have no knowledge of where our school's money is going.

But once again, we are ready for change. In conjunction with the Sunday Night Group, the Student Campaign for Socially Responsible Investment has taken the initiative and composed the first charter for the creation of Middlebury's own Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investment (ACSRI). As outlined in the charter, the Committee will be comprised of student, faculty, administrative, alumni and trustee members. It will deliberate and issue recommendations on the direction of the endowment's investment. Although SRI members have already had one meeting with the Board of Trustees and are continuing a dialogue with President Liebowitz, the establishment of the ACSRI has yet to be fully approved.

Since the investment of our endowment is one of the greatest impacts our college has on the community at large, it is crucial that this official forum for dialogue be created now. To quote from the Middlebury mission statement, "Middlebury endeavors to maintain a lifelong bond with its alumni and expects its graduates to be thoughtful, ethical leaders able to meet the challenges of informed citizenship. They should be independent thinkers, committed to service, with the courage to follow their convictions and prepared to accept responsibility for their actions." In light of such a clearly articulated mission, a lack of full transparency and student participation in investment policy is inconsistent with the core values of Middlebury College. It is about time that the first Advisory Committee on SRI becomes a reality. It is about time for us to fulfill our greater duty as informed citizens and members of this community. And it is time to make sure, openly, that Middlebury is putting its money where its mouth is.

JESSICA EARLY '09
UNDECLARED MAJOR
THE STUDENT SRI CAMPAIGN

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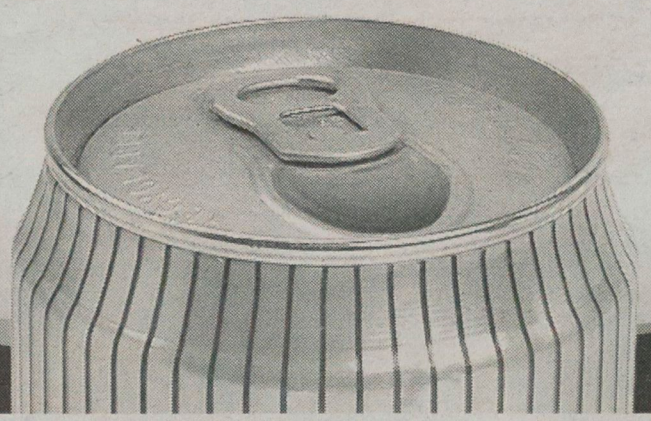

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Food occupies a special place in the lives of Middlebury students. Many plan their day according to when, where and what they are going to eat. As in other areas of life, students turn a critical eye to their food, questioning its quality, its source, its variety. The award-winning Dining Services, under the leadership of Matthew Biette, takes great pains to satisfy students' cravings, often in many ways that go unnoticed.

Dining Services is constantly thinking of new ways to please the ever-broadening palate of the discerning College diner. Last Thursday's Food Fair in Proctor Dining Hall, at which more than a dozen different vendors set up booths and provided free samples of their products, was a perfect example of Dining Services' efforts to involve students in menu-related decisions. Diners perused the booths and tasted products that seemed appetizing, sampling dishes like fried brownies, tortellini, vegan meatballs, gourmet cheeses and beer-battered shrimp. Votes were eventually cast for those foods students would like to see integrated into future menus. A large and enthusiastic Proctor crowd demonstrated widespread interest in the event.

Complementing the food fair are other means by which students can involve themselves in the dining experience. In addition to the familiar comment cards on which students gush over tempeh stir fry or complain about cold broccoli, Dining Services accepts recipes from students, which are often incorporated into the cuisine. They also will respond to requests to buy food from new sources. While some 35 percent of food served is produced in the state of Vermont, Middlebury began shiping its free-range salmon from a small village in Alaska in response to complaints about the quality of farm-bred salmon.

Students take their own initiative in creating culinary experiences. This past Thursday night, an hour after the food show, students from Wonnacott and Cook Commons faced off in an Iron Chef competition in Ross Dining Hall. In this edition of the popular new activity, students competed to prepare the best dish possible, using pineapple as the secret ingredient. This year Jay Yonamine '07 won for Cook Commons. [See "Iron Chef" on page 16.]

Another student-run event is Dolci, held weekly in Proctor Dining Hall. The food is widely hailed as being some of the best in town. Each Friday, student chefs have the opportunity to prepare and serve the classy, multiple-course meals. Using ingredients purchased by Dining Services and following a different theme every week, dishes vary from sweet potato casseroles to lamb chops and other fancy concoctions. That Dolci is both free and weekly only heightens its popularity. Students line up at The Grille the night before and wait patiently for their chance to grab tickets, which are available in limited numbers. Often, students are turned away because there are not enough tickets to go around. Even after all the tickets are given away, students still show up at dinner, hoping to find an extra seat.

Also on Fridays, Hillel sponsors a Shabbat dinner in Freeman International Center. Although the dining halls have many kosher ingredients, the Shabbat dinner is the only exclusively kosher meal served on campus. Freeman Hall, home to the Jewish Center, also hosts other special events for Hillel, including a bagel brunch on Sundays of Fall Family Weekend. This week, however, Hillel and Dolci teamed up, uniting the two events in Proctor Dining Hall.

On special occasions — at least once per month — the dining halls sponsor a large event to break up the monotony that regular dining can sometimes present. Every year, a Thanksgiving dinner is prepared the Thursday before the holiday, offering turkey, venison stew, mashed potatoes, stuffing and cranberry sauce. In past years, there has also been a Super Bowl Tailgate Party, infamous for its streakers. There are also special campus-wide events such as the recent karaoke contests, in which students competed for a $500 gift certificate in their quest to become the next Middlebury Idol. According to Biette, the Earth Day picnic is the next special event this spring. He also hinted that there are "a few more up our sleeves that we are currently working on."

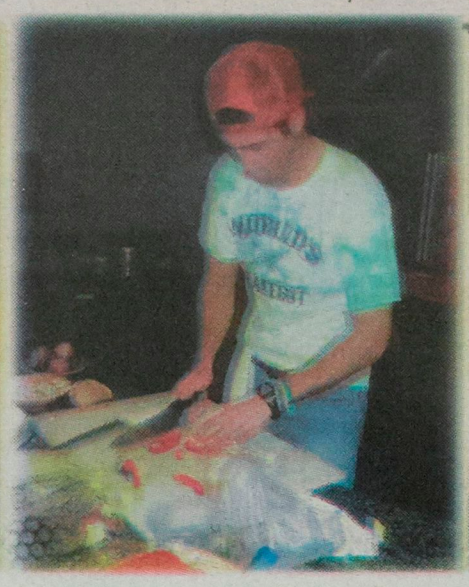
Perhaps the most beloved tradition is midnight breakfast during exam weeks. Recently moved out of Proctor Hall and split between Atwater and Ross Dining Halls, the breakfast provides a much-needed respite for study-weary students. Whether students are participating in the famous doughnut-eating contest or just looking to avoid studying for their exams, midnight breakfast is a peaceful haven at the most stressful time of year.

Sometimes the dish itself is reason to celebrate. When Atwater serves Asian cuisine or Proctor boasts Chicken Parmesan, students flock to the respective locations so they can indulge in the food Middlebury has to offer. In the absence of great food, students will create their own concoctions with spice racks, panini machines and microwaves.

In addition to providing meals for the entire campus, dining services is also responsible for catering luncheon seminars that take place in John McCardell, Jr., Bicentennial Hall. Justin Wright '08 commented, "I walk by the seminar room and can't help but indulge in the delicious sandwiches presented in front of my eyes." Many students have admitted they have attended one of these seminars not because they were interested, not because their teacher required them to, but because they wanted to enjoy a sandwich, cookies and sugary lemonade.

It is not a stretch to say that Middlebury students have an insatiable appetite for both the food and fun served up by Dining Services.

—Jason F. Siegel and James Dolan
Focus Editors



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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Iron chef Yonamine pan-fries foes

By Mike Murali
Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 9, two teams battled for the right to be the official Middlebury Iron Chefs in Ross Commons Dining Hall. Cook Commons' team, led by Jay Yonamine '07 with assistants Andrew Bermudez '07 and Charles Cavness '09, defeated the Wonacott Commons team, led by Maggie Higgins '08 with assistants Emi Neithercut and Nick Monier, both '08.

This cook-off was based on the popular show Iron Chef, which appears on the Food Network. On that program, top-rated cooks from dozens of countries compete for the right to be among the greatest chefs in the world. In every episode a new secret ingredient is introduced and the chefs are challenged to create a full meal within a time limit, with each portion containing some of the special ingredient.

For this event, the mystery food was pineapple. Said Yonamine of his tactics, "I made a Hawaiian pizza, crust and all. Pineapple-based teriyaki sauce over sautéed beef and grilled pineapple. Pineapple salsa for grilled salmon and pineapple rum flambé over vanilla ice cream and puff pastries."

Higgins, however, took a different approach. "We made five dishes incorporating pineapple, which is hard to cook with. We started off with a tomato-pineapple bruschetta on basil toasted baguette. Then we served a sautéed vegetable and pineapple succotash with shrimp, after which we served turkey pineapple cacciatore burger on portabellas and cheesy scalloped potatoes with pineapple. We finished off with a peach and pineapple cobbler with ice cream."

Both teams worked hard under pressure and managed to complete their dishes. The competition was quite fierce in the dining hall that night. "I'd never been to a Middlebury Iron Chef, but my sister loves Food Network, so I've seen a fair share of the real 'Iron Chef' with her," commented Higgins about the competition.

Courtesy

Wonnacott assistant chef Andrew Bermudez '07 whips up a dish with plenty of pineapple in Ross Commons Dining Hall. Wonnaccott Commons lost the competition this year.

My last article in the Campus was about my cage fight... hopefully after this article, instead of having drunk guys asking me to train them, I will have girls asking me to cook for them.

— Jay Yonamine '07

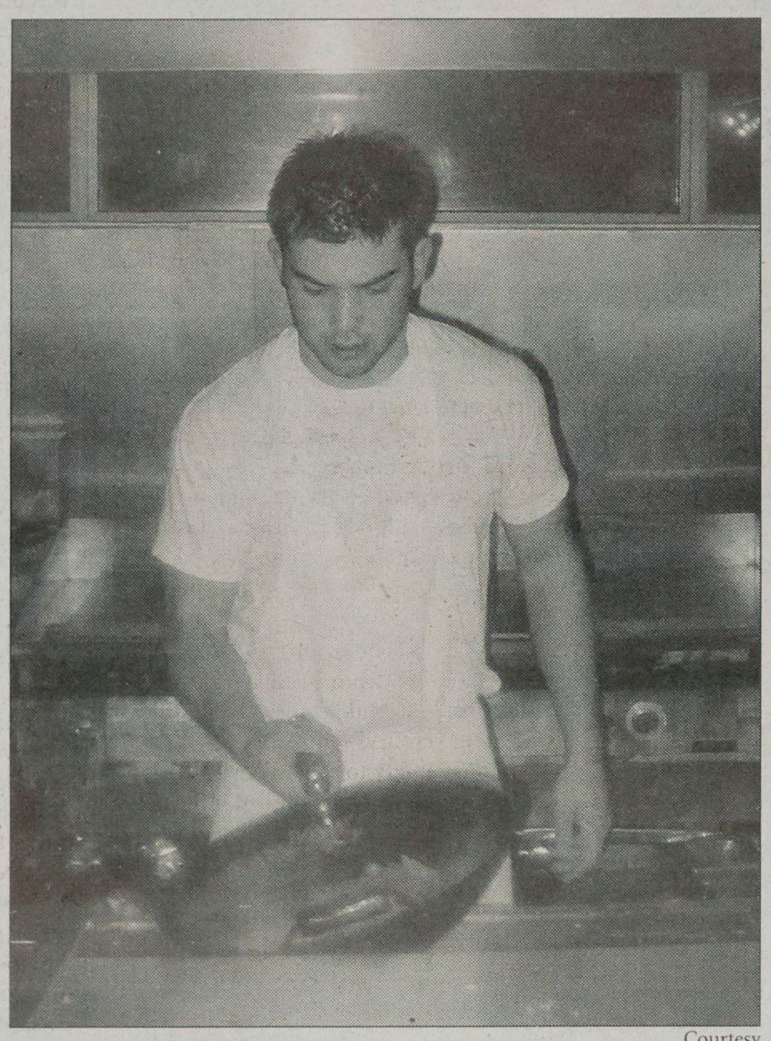
Bermudez said it was a fun time as well, saying "I had a great time. I'm going to become a cage fighter just like Jay."

Yonamine, who gained Middlebury notoriety from a *Campus* article about his prowess in the rink, said, "My last article in *The Campus* was about my cage fight, which many guys seemed pretty excited about because fighting in general is a fun macho thing. Hopefully after this article, instead of having drunk guys come up to me and ask me to train them, I will have girls asking me to cook for them."

Many of the participants were competing in their first Iron Chef competition. It was not, however the first for Yonamine. "I have actually done this three years in a row now. I might participate in the future but it's kind of stressful and takes a bunch of time." He also encouraged others to participate, saying that "some other students from Cook might want the chance to give it a try."

When asked about how she felt about her competition, Higgins said "Jay and his team were real intense, very nice throughout the competition, and created a superb array of dishes. Though we came in as the underdogs, seriously outweighed in cooking and the Iron Chef experience, we had a great time and enjoyed the competition."

Both teams created a creative array of dishes to present to the judges, who were not disappointed. It seems that both Cook and Wonnacott have budding culinary masters in their midst. Who knows who will be the next Iron Chef?



Courtesy

Jay Yonamine '07 handles his frying pan like a pro at the iron chef competition last Thursday, serving up an impressive win for Cook Commons.

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Preaching to the climate choir

Famed Climatologist captivates College lecture-goers

By Julia McKinnon
Staff Writer

When climatologist Michael Mann appeared at Middlebury to give this year's Margolin Environmental Affairs lecture, Benjamin F. Wissler Professor of Physics Richard Wolfson mysteriously presented him with a Middlebury College hockey stick.

Why? Because Mann is nationally renowned for his work in calculating the globe's change in atmospheric temperature over time. And the graph he has come up with to measure global temperature takes the alarming shape of a hockey stick turned on its side.

In his work, Mann strives to use statistical methodology to show that global temperatures are rising at an unnatural rate. His "hockey stick" graph shows global temperatures over the last millennium, relying on indicators like the width of tree rings and health of coral reefs to show temperatures in the years before thermometers existed.

His graph illustrates gradual but steady global cooling over the thousand-year period until the 20th century, at which point temperatures began to increase. The end of the graph shows a dramatic upward thrust — the "hockey stick blade" — indicating that the last two decades have consistently seen record-high temperatures. Mann believes this increase to be caused by human activity.

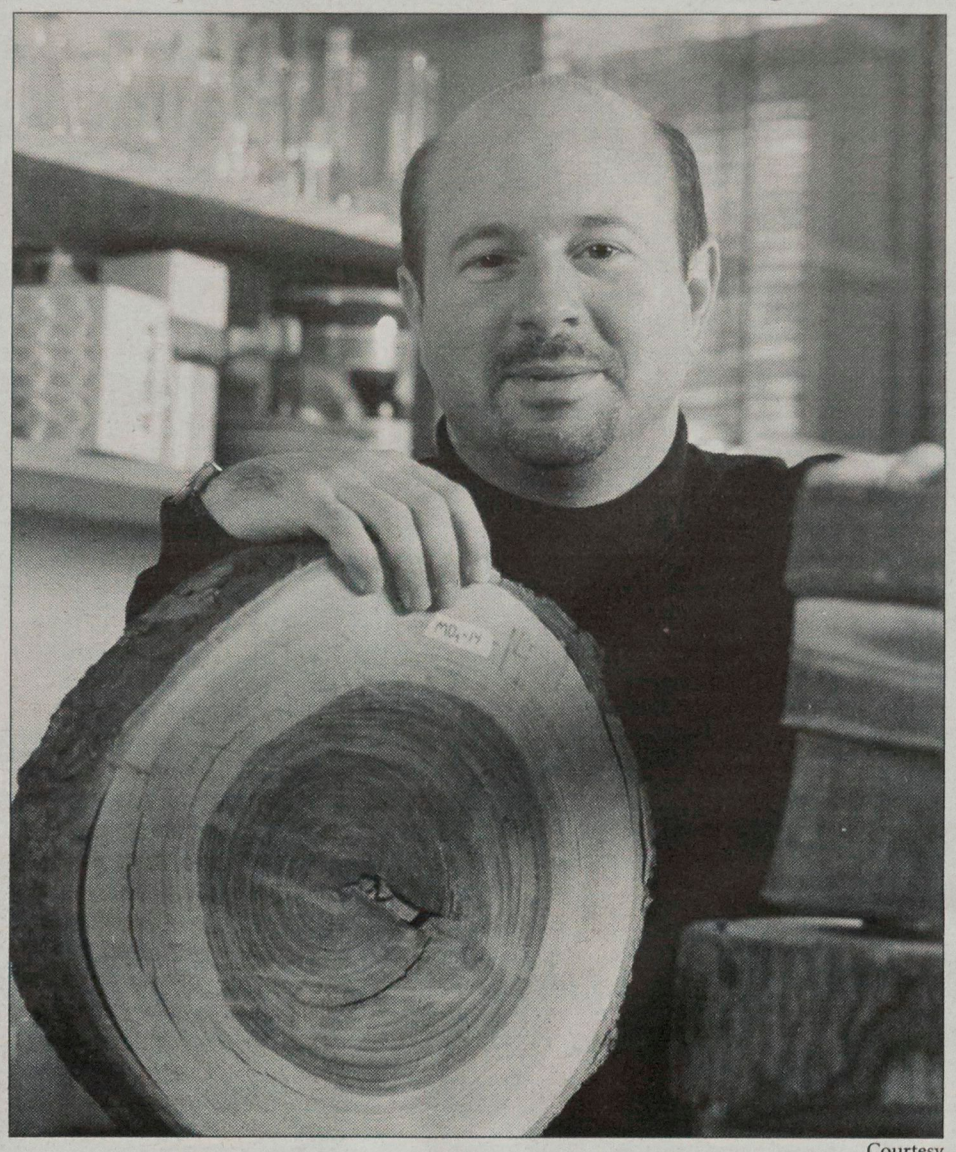
Mann came to Middlebury as this year's Scott Margolin Environmental Affairs lecturer. He works at Penn State University in the Departments of Meteorology and Geosciences, as well as in the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute. His famous graph was accepted for publication in 1999 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

As this year's Margolin lecturer, Mann joined the good company of many other famous individuals in the environmental world. In previous years, the Margolin Environmental Affairs lecture has brought to campus environmental historian William Cronon, climatologist Steven Schneider, Paul Ehrlich, author of the "Time Bomb," and Eileen Clausen, president of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

According to Wolfson, Mann was an interesting Margolin lecturer because, unlike many of the speakers from past years, "he's not at the end of his career." Instead, "Mann is up and coming," said Wolfson.

Mann is indeed up and coming in that he still plans on conducting extensive research. So far, he has achieved much acclaim. Mann's hockey stick graph is what he calls "iconic." Since publication by the IPCC, it has served as evidence of anthropogenic-related climate change. An article by John Daly states that Mann's graph "in one scientific coup overturned the whole of climate history."

"For policymakers, his graph became a symbol of how unusual climate has been over the last one hundred years," said Wolfson.



Courtesy

Climatologist Michael Mann, renowned in the scientific community for his "hockey stick" graph depicting rising global temperatures, spoke at Middlebury on Tuesday, March 7.

A large group of environmentally-minded students had lunch with Mann and got to know him on a personal level before his talk.

"Having lunch with Mann was a unique experience," said Lynne Zummo '06. "We all had the chance to sit down and talk with a brilliant climatologist about ideas that weren't necessarily science-oriented," she said.

Mann seemed to be intrigued by the number of involved Middlebury students. "We talked a lot about big versus small colleges — he is at Penn state — and he was praising Middlebury for having an active student body," said Dan Berkman '06, "especially when it comes to environmental issues."

Mann's lecture, entitled "Global Climate Change: Past and Future," was packed full, even though he had already given a lecture to about 100 science-oriented students earlier that day. Many students had to sit on the floor in the front and back of the room in order to hear Mann speak.

For policy-makers, [Mann's work] became a symbol of how unusual climate has been over the last one hundred years.

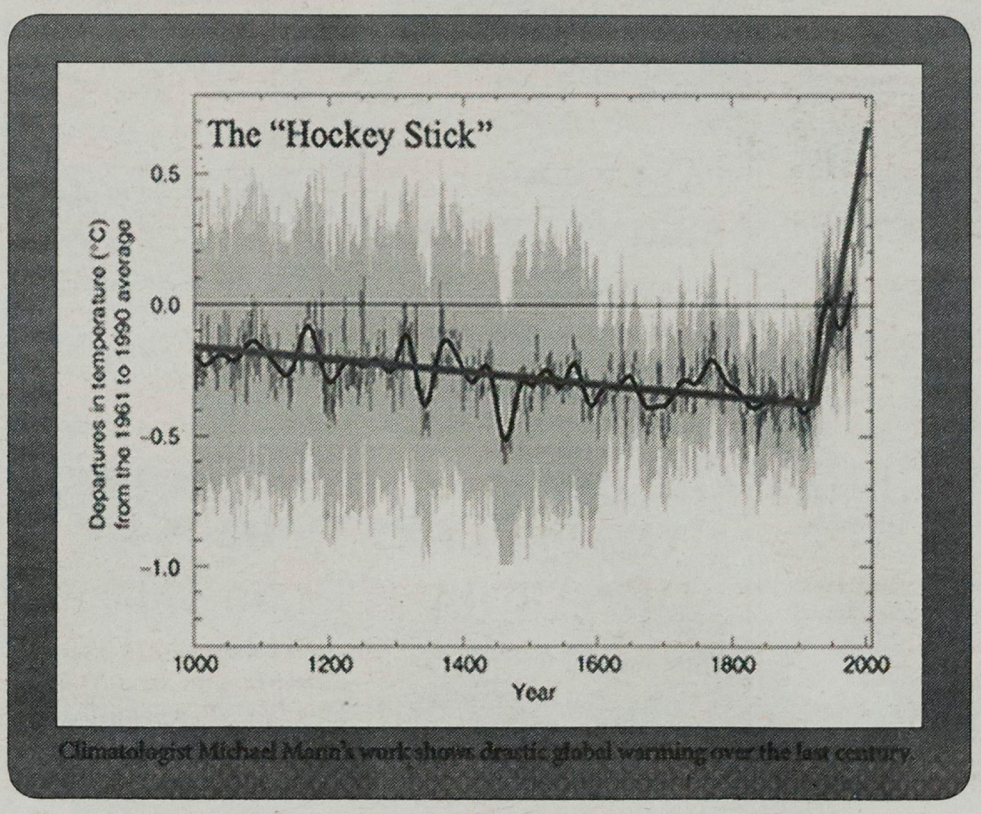
—Professor of Physics Richard Wolfson

Mann somehow managed to engage the diverse crowd. He stood before an audience in John M. McCardell, Jr. Bicentennial hall and explained climate change to English majors, members of the environmentally-oriented Sunday Night Group, hockey players and senior citizens from the town of Middlebury, all interested in what he had to say.

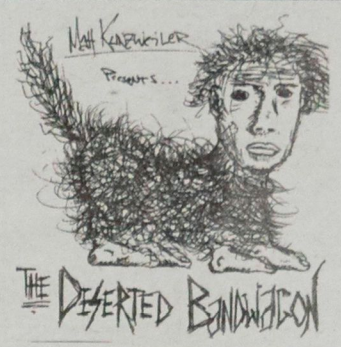
"I was very impressed that he was such a good public speaker and people person," said Emily Egginton '06. "I thought his scientific presentation was [strong] because it was meant for a more educated audience but was still easy to grasp since he presented it so well."

The overwhelming size of the audience suggests a great depth of interest in climate change issues at Middlebury. "This is the big issue of the century," said Wolfson.

Mann's ability to achieve a well-designed scientific graph to depict human influence on climate change has brought him much recognition. Wolfson believes that the message Mann conveyed to Middlebury and to the IPCC is a crucial one. Climate change, said Wolfson, "is going to affect all of us. I don't think it's going to make the world uninhabitable, but it's going to cause other problems that exacerbate the injustices in the world. It will cause a strain for everybody."



Climatologist Michael Mann's work shows drastic global warming over the last century.



BY MATT KUNZWEILER

I wake up dizzy in my single apartment. I live above a hair salon in town, and some mornings, when business downstairs is good, I can smell nothing but the toxic perm fumes rising from the floor beneath. Those old-school heated perm helmets that curiously resemble electric chair headgear — they must cause tumors, psychosis, birth defects, cold sores, something bad. It's like putting your head in the microwave, which can't be healthy.

So here I am in my upstairs apartment, which is practically hotboxed with a sour yellow haze. I imagine old ladies downstairs with smoldering bird nests of unnaturally colored hair, big oblivious smiles. For me it's fresh air or death. I army crawl to the door to avoid exposure. As I step outside I realize that (because I live on my own and struggle to cook even oven-ready pizza) the healthiest food/drink I've consumed in the past three weeks was a screwdriver mixed with calcium- and vitamin D- enriched orange juice. Now that I think about it, it tasted a little like the perm fumes. Its effects weren't entirely dissimilar, either.

So I drive to campus for decent food. Once I've finished lunch, I cross campus and walk past those kids who are perpetually smoking by the library entrance, perpetually looking hungover, perpetually recommending indie rock bands with pseudo-intellectual names like "Touché" or "The Defenestration of Prague."

Later I meet some friends at the bar, where we witness the Controlled Substances Henchman storm through the back door, flashing his flip-badge left and right (you can tell he's an X-Files fan). Do I see the mark of arousal on his face as the youngsters scatter and run? Do his moist lips not tremble with each flash of the badge?

This is perverse. These under-21ers need to have fun on a Wednesday night — it's an inalienable right. I approach a cluster of huddling underclassmen in a remote corner of the bar. "Say, kids, you wanna get messed up without having to deal with the law?"

They nod timidly in unison. So we go back to my apartment and stand around, getting high off the perfectly legal perm fumes. "This is so much better than alcohol," one kid shouts, clawing obsessively at his skin. He falls to the floor laughing, pulling a bookcase down with him. I hear the sound of vomit striking porcelain in the background. One kid has found a bottle of Bombay Sapphire in my freezer and is now unscrewing the cap.

"Put that back, you little hoodlum. In this house we obey the law."

The shindig is going just spectacularly when there's a knock at the door. I open it to see — guess whom? — the Controlled Substances Henchman. "What's going on here?"

"Perfectly legal intoxication," I declare with my arms in a victorious V. "Perm fumes — flight of the future." Within minutes the Henchman is inhaling deeply through his wide nostrils. He sways like an idiot and now — my God! — is removing his shirt. From the peanut gallery: "What a lightweight!" "He can't handle his perm!"

Even I'm starting to feel the effects, and I've been inhaling these fumes for months. "You sophomores are alright," I say. But things have gone too far. The kids have shattered the hair salon's windows and are now caking hair dye all over their heads and sitting under the perm helmets, eyes rolling into the backs of their heads. I run to the Controlled Substances Henchman, but he's passed out prostrate. I can't wake him. We have no authority. All control is lost. What have I done? What have I done? Oh beer, I miss you.

By Trista McGetrick

Global warming is more than just the concern of a few antisocial environmentalists. It is essentially a humanitarian concern. Environmental justice initiatives seek to address the social, political and economic aspects of climate change. In addition, they hope to remedy the fact that those with the least political and economic power are suffering the havoc that the consumptive habits of industrialized nations have wreaked on the environment.

Citizens of small Pacific islands are already becoming refugees from increasingly violent weather patterns and rising sea levels. At last fall's Clifford Symposium, citizens of Tuvalu, a nation 10 feet above sea level, bore witness to this fact. In addition to an increase in severe storms, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that within 50 to 100 years, melting ice caps could cause the complete disappearance of Tuvalu.

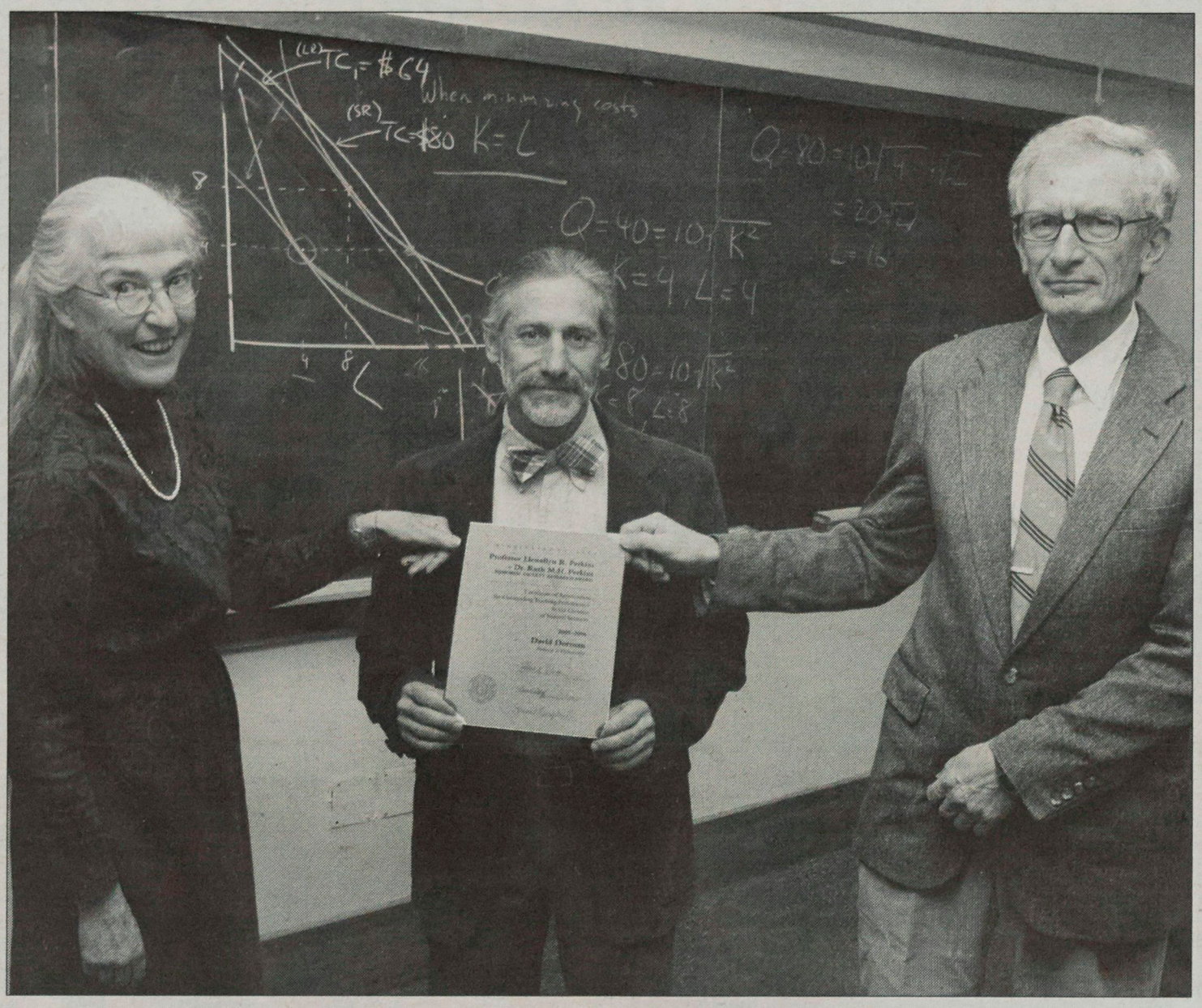
The people of colder climates also stand to lose. *National Geographic* reports that hunters in Greenland are already finding their traditional routes impassible due to thinning and breaking ice in areas once firmly frozen. Increasingly, they are faced with having to choose between giving up their livelihoods or risking injury and death on the now precarious hunting routes.

The social and economic effects of climate change are felt closer to home as well. Minorities living in the United States are much more likely to be uninsured and living in poverty. Because of the precarious living situations of the poor in many cities, minority citizens may be the most harshly affected by the hurricanes, droughts and other disasters scientists believe are the results of global warming. This was widely viewed as being the case with low-income New Orleans families following Hurricane Katrina.

Considering the direct impact that it is having on communities everywhere, global warming can no longer be dismissed or taken on only after other problems are solved. The lifestyles common in many western nations have very real consequences for people in other, poorer parts of the world. In the United States, the spread of suburbia, an increase in the number of personal vehicles, the lack of effective public transportation and the indifference of voters and policy-makers all contribute to the consequences felt by those elsewhere who make less of an impact on the global environment.

There is no denying that the individual lifestyle decisions we make have a real impact on the world as a whole. Climate change is one of the ways in which this impact becomes apparent. By altering our personal habits— driving less, turning down the heat and hanging up laundry to name a few — and by discussing these issues rather than ignoring them, each of us can address environmental injustice at its roots.

Mathematics on the mind



Albert Bitici

Posing proudly with his certificate, Professor of Mathematics David Dorman (center) was honored with the Perkins award on Tuesday, March 13, followed by a ceremony commemorating the impressive achievement in Warner Hall. The Perkins award honors an outstanding achievement in teaching mathematics and the sciences. The prestigious award is given out every other year. Dorman's primary area of research is arithmetical algebraic geometry, which is a blend of number theory and algebraic geometry.

World Briefs

—*By Aylie Baker*

Reform in China

China's National People's Congress approved a rural reform plan which aims to lessen the current disparity between its affluent cities and the poorer countryside. In a statement, Premier Wen Jiabao said China would narrow its economic gap by channeling recent prosperity into reform. The plan's approval marks a turning point in China's economic policy: while debate in the 1990s was centered on opening the Chinese economy to outsiders, this year's discussions were focused on China's proper "pace of liberalization."

—*Reuters*, Beijing

Iran's nukes

The U.N. Security Council is divided over whether to intervene in Iran's alleged nuclear weapon development. The 35-nation International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently asked Iran to stop uranium enrichment, which has been widely interpreted as a sign of bomb manufacturing. The United States, Britain and France have sought to secure support from China and Russia in their proposed initiative to rein in "Iran's nuclear ambitions." Such a resolution would require unanimous support. China and Russia remain on the fence, however, voicing their desire for the IAEA rather than the Security Council to manage the crisis.

—*Reuters*, The Hague

Crackdown in Bangkok

The atmosphere surrounding Thailand's Government House in Bangkok remains volatile as thousands of protestors march to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The city's entire police force has been mobilized in response to the protests, and 20,000 additional police officers remain on alert. The protestors' grievances include Shinawatra's heavy-handed reaction to an Islamic insurgency in southern Thailand and his tight control over the country's media. While at present the protests remain peaceful, there are worries that they could soon become violent.

—*BBC*, Bangkok

Free trade in Ecuador

Several thousand Ecuadorian Indians effectively paralyzed the central highland areas surrounding the country's capital Quito on Monday with outraged protests regarding the government's free-trade talks with the United States. The Indians, who comprise a large percentage of Ecuador's rural labor force, argue that the trade deal will place them at a disadvantage compared to U.S. farmers and will result in increased deterioration of their ancestral traditions. While President Alfredo Palacio has vowed "not to sign any deal that is unfair to Ecuadorians," he continues to remain engaged in the Andean Trade Pact talks.

—*Reuters*, Latacunga, Ecuador

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

FOOD SHOW	**LINE AT THE FOOD SHOW**
Amazing food at Proctor that doesn't require a panini machine. Wow.	**On second thought, was the food only so good because you would have eaten anything by the time you got into Proctor?**
5 WEEKS BEFORE SPRING BREAK	**7 WEEKS AFTER SPRING**
Instead of the usual 6 weeks of class before Spring Break, it's only 5 weeks this year.	**Math sucks.**
THE CHRONIC-(WHAT)-CLES OF NARNIA	**FREE FRIDAY FILMS OF NARNIA**
If you haven't seen this SNL skit, you need to see it. Now. Really, go now.	**It didn't show at 4:30 p.m. and started late the second time. C'mon, MCAB, you know this is a long movie.**

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Playwrights parade in 'Petting Zoo'

New concept offers fresh theater talent chance to go wild

By Ellen Grafton
Staff Writer

The Hepburn Zoo hosted a new sort of production last weekend. On March 10 and 11, audiences filled the house for "The Petting Zoo: A Workshop," which featured six new plays written by Middlebury students.

Each play lasted about 10 minutes and had its own cast and director. Similar to the annual First Year Show of the fall, all actors involved in "The Petting Zoo" had never performed on a Middlebury stage. Julia Proctor '06.5, who organized the event, commented that she hoped this stipulation would afford new Feb students a chance to be exposed to the theater community.

"I am a Feb and I felt left out from theatre when I first arrived on campus since we do not have the same introduction to the department like September students do," Proctor said. "So I wanted to provide that opportunity for the new Febs to get involved with the Zoo during their first semester."

Proctor worked with Visiting Lecturer of Theater Dana Yeaton to select the plays to be presented. The actors performed with the scripts in hand to highlight the new plays as the primary focus of the show. On the benefits of presenting the pieces this way, Proctor said, "This [the staged reading] puts the emphasis on the play while still providing freedom and opportunity for the new actors."

New actors bring new audiences and it was great to see new faces in the Zoo on both sides of the lights.
— Julia Proctor '06.5

The plays varied greatly in style and subject, though most tended towards the comedic rather than tragic. "Girl Troubles," by Elliot Turley '06, combined the stresses of a young adult relationship with the apocalypse to great comic effect.

"From a Big Book" by Lucas Kavner, '06.5 proved to be one of the heaviest moments of the night as it explored the challenges of an oncologist who cares too deeply for a dying patient. The actors' dedication to a realistic style and the moments of humor within the script lent the scene a contemplative and sympathetic feel rather than one of self-pity or melodrama.

"On the True Nature of Olives: A Discourse" by Willie Orbison '08 had one of the biggest laughs of the night for a joke about the word "thrice." Successful comic wit was typical of the piece, which centered on issues of love and friendship and some unlikely advice from a Greek short-order cook.

"The Human" by Zach Maxwell '07 launched into an experimental style in which an actress portrays a man's psyche. The tense and provocative piece featured a series of short scenes in which a man's mind drowns him in a relentless torrent of opinions, observations and associations.

The slapstick humor in "Charades" by Jocey Florence '06 kept the audience laughing, particularly at the antics of Joe Bergan '07.5 as a clueless little brother who dwarfed most of the cast.

The night ended with the strange philosophical possibilities of a CVS sign and its followers in "Getting There" by Jake Jeppson '06.

Kimberly Bowker

Kristen Deane '06, Waylon Carl '08 and Nitzah Gebhard '08 perform in Zach Maxwell's '07 play entitled 'The Human.' In this scene, Deane plays the talkative psyche, Burtsworthy, of Carl's character.

Though there were a few jokes that didn't quite work and some moments that seemed a little strained onstage, the audience's general consensus was one of admiration for the work produced entirely by Middlebury students.

"The Petting Zoo" afforded both a night of entertainment and a chance for new playwrights to observe the reactions of a real audience to their work. On the communal benefits of the show, Proctor said, "New actors bring new audiences and it was great to see new faces in the Zoo on both sides of the lights. The Zoo provides incredible opportunities for students interested in producing their own work and it is important for us to utilize that space and our own communal resources to their maximum potential. I hope the 'Petting Zoo' becomes a tradition to provide a showcase for new student work."

Other shows to grace the Zoo this spring include "The Project," the senior work of Daniel diTomasso '06 and Lucas Kavner '06.5,

Percussionists play for Posse

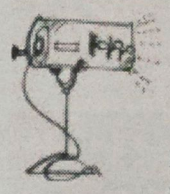
Courtesy

Joining Posse scholars and their guests on the retreat last weekend, Steve Leicach, Derrick Jordan, Tony Vacca, three percussion artists who record both on their own and collaboratively, led a collective instrumental improvisation to match the spirit of the event. The retreat is an annual gathering of scholars from public high schools and the inner city, who are given full scholarship by the Posse Foundation. Each scholar brings two guests in hopes of bringing a greater understanding between participants and about the importance of diversity.

Mural colors PALANA

Albert Bitici

Standing before his freshly-completed mural, Kevin Buckland '05.5 continues his quest to brighten the walls of Middlebury. A former co-president of VACA and passionate artist, Buckland aimed to enliven as many blank walls of the campus as possible with his colorful, abstract paintings and encouraged others to do the same. This mural is part of an ongoing trend to invigorate empty spaces with student art and follows the creation of a mural in Battell Hall earlier this year.

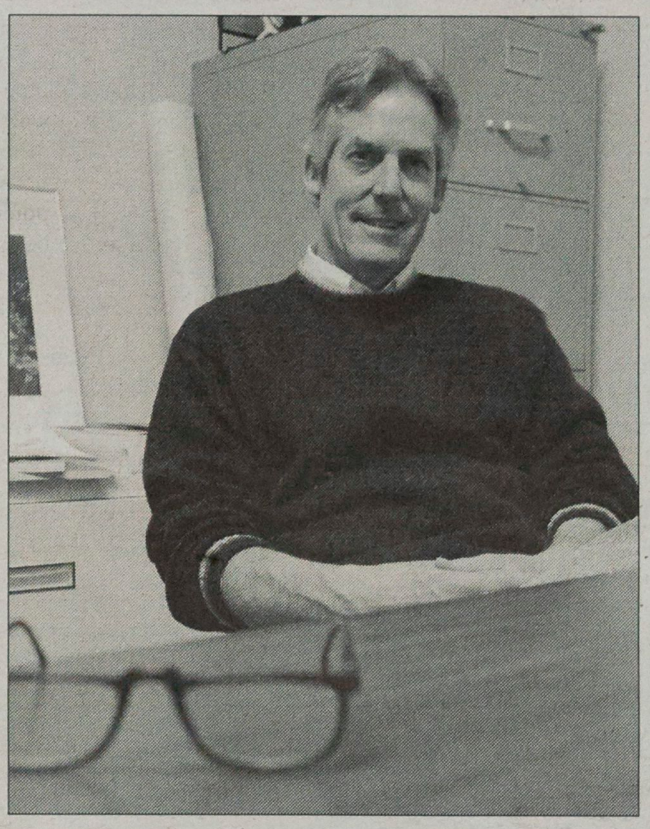


Spotlight on...Michael Collier

Visiting Professor of English Michael Collier is the director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference (BLWC), teaches English at the University of Maryland, College Park and was named the Poet Laureate of Maryland in 2001. His books of poetry include The Ledge (2000), The Neighbor (1995), The Folded Heart (1989) and The Clasp and Other Poems (1986). Collier is also the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship and NEA fellowships. Collier taught a poetry workshop at the college over Jterm and is currently teaching a modern poetry course.

***The Middlebury Campus:* What circumstances led you to Middlebury for the year? Just a specific interest in these courses?**

Michael Collier: Well, I've had an association with the BLWC for over twelve years, and I've always wondered what it'd be like to be here over the wintertime — to teach here at the college — especially after I've had such wonderful students from Middlebury over the years. I've had lots of friends in this community, in the writing department, and it's wonderful to work with them.



Kimberly Bowker

***TC:* What differences, if any, do you find between Middlebury undergrads and other undergrad and grad students you've worked with?**

MC: Maryland's a public university, and the range of students is much broader. It's much more difficult to get into Middlebury, and so the students are kind of higher-end than they are at Maryland. The students here also have a familiarity with literature that a good sixty percent of the students at Maryland don't. The curiosity level is about the same. At Maryland, there is just a wider spectrum. Graduate students are quite different — they come from all over the country and they've done really well wherever they've been as undergrads. We actually have a Middlebury grad studying poetry right now [at Maryland]. In this Modern Poetry class I'm teaching, students are much more active in discussion. There are plenty of opinions and there is a kind of eagerness. I think it has to do with the fact that most Midd students were the best in their class and were used to talking, that they've developed a habit of participation. It's great. It's fun. We get to penetrate more deeply into what we're talking about. Almost everyone is working at the same level.

***TC:* What do you think an aspiring writer at Middlebury can get out of the Breadloaf Conference? What are your thoughts on writing conferences at Breadloaf — do you think an undergraduate student can really get a lot out of it?**

MC: I think this leads to a bigger question, that of the use of writing conferences at all. I think that Middlebury college students have a pretty good experience at Breadloaf for a couple of reasons. The first is that they're comfortable with the landscape, if not the actual structure of the courses. The other is that there are enough of them [students who attend Breadloaf] here — there are between either eight or nine — that they can create a little subgroup even if they are dispersed among the workshops. One thing people get out of workshops, though, is insight into what it means to be a writer, what it means to make your life into a life that's dedicated to writing. It comes in a couple forms, not just in the case of specific things you have to do, but in terms of the level of passion and energy and dedication.

***TC:* Do you think being around other writers fosters that?**

MC: Yes, and I think people will talk about how that's the sort of thing they get out of a writer's conferences. That sense of community is one of the most important things that a writer could get out of a conference. They establish writing conferences that will get them through tough times, they'll exchange information about what they're reading. There's also the intensity of the experience, being exposed to lectures by faculty and craft classes and social opportunities. All of those things are intensely stimulating. The best is when people get something that they couldn't expect. If that happens, it's very exciting for them. I think Middlebury students can be nervous before they come up [to Breadloaf], but the teachers are very good and used to working with a wide range of students and I've found that in the years of working with Midd students, that they usually hold their own. They shouldn't be nervous on whether they could fit in.

***TC:* I know you read a couple poems from your new collection at a recent reading. Would you like to talk a little bit about where they came from?**

MC: The inspiration for the poems comes from grief, I suppose, from losing friends who had died from, let's say, 1998 to about 2003. There was a big cluster of my friends who died. The poems were in response to that; it was a way of facing the grief I had buried — of examining it. It really came through in dream imagery, and when I wasn't working with dreams, it seems like birds and bird imagery were there to be avatars or a kind of connection to the dream world. Writing this book was unlike the other four books in that I didn't think consciously to what I was doing; I was mostly responding to images and rhythms, and I noticed afterward that so many had to do with words, so many were literal elegies for friends. It's an extended elegy.

— Bri Cavallaro

WRMC 91.1 FM
On Rotation

BY BENJAMIN GOLZE

Built to Spill
"You in Reverse" Preview
Release: Aprill 11, 2006

I toyed with this topic for a while, mostly about whether to write it now or in April. But in the end I decided that I was just way too excited to sit on it until April 11. To what am I referring, dear reader? Why, to Built to Spill's upcoming record "You in Reverse," which is set to hit stores on the aforementioned date.

Much like with Modest Mouse's last record, which was released at about the same time two years ago, I fully anticipate this album to dominate my summer listening schedule. All of this is not baseless speculation, of course — the band recently dropped a new single on iTunes and features another new song on their MySpace page.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. Built to Spill is not exactly a household name in the broadest sense, though as far as I can tell they are one of the most important bands in the Northwest indie scene. I use the region rather loosely to include Boise, Idaho, but I doubt that will bother many people. "You in Reverse" will be their sixth studio album, and fourth for Warner Bros. records.

In any event, Built to Spill's music has been referred to as "freewheeling" and "energetic" by people polled at Allmusic.com, and I tend to agree. Doug Martsch, the band's vocalist, lead guitarist and primary songwriter, manages to craft music that runs on the very edge of jamming — his tight craftsmanship and propensity for pop hooks keep the songs from spilling into blah jam band territory. That only really holds true for their studio work, however.

In concert, they let loose into unpredictable shoe-gaze rock (meaning they play looking down at the smorgasbord of distortion pedals at their feet). For example, their cover of Neil Young's live show mainstay "Cortez the Killer" runs over twenty minutes long on their album "Live." Nevertheless, even though many of their songs fall into the six- to eight-minute range, they are earnestly engaging.

That much is true of the first single from the new album. The song is titled "Goin' Against Your Mind" and runs over eight minutes. (Request it at WRMC: it's a great song and will give the DJ time to go to the bathroom). Longtime fans will find it immediately reminiscent of "Perfect From Now On," their first major label album. In that sense, it is a thankful reprieve from their underwhelming last album "Ancient Melodies of the Distant Future." Although complex overall, the guitars — always the focus of Built to Spill music — stand out above everything else.

However, this song is even a bit of a departure from the band's midlife albums. According to their Web site, Built to Spill has been trying to capture a live, impromptu sound in their music. Gone are the overdubs that Martsch has relied on for so long and, as a result, the raging guitar solos that make up most of the rest of the song sound much more raw.

The other song, available on MySpace and called "Conventional Wisdom," also captures that live sound, yet encloses it in a much tighter song structure. It is also much more upbeat, which makes it closer in tone to Built to Spill's 1994 album "There's Nothing Wrong With Love," a collection of much shorter pop songs. The song kicks off with a main theme that's immediately catchy. And when the song segues into a slower, sprawling solo at the end, it doesn't feel out of place at all. Classic Built to Spill.

"You in Reverse" is going to knock your socks off in April. And that's science.

Ratnam graces stage in seven shades of Tara

By Joyce Man
Arts Editor

At one point, as a sea of red light filled the background and an excited flurry of wind chimes and Tibetan chants rolled across the stage, Anita Ratnam ignited the stage with her swirling, grooving movements. Her arms, snakelike, slithered through space. In the dimmed atmosphere of the Center for the Arts Dance Theatre, the audience was left unsure whether it was the dancer that moved the dancer or the dancer that moved the air. With that, and if only for a moment, spatial defintions disappeared.

In a nutshell, this is what Ratnam, does — she slides through the crevices of what is certain and blends the things that are undefined. And she does it through classical Indian dance, a skilled art form she began learning when she was just three years old. On Monday night, Ratnam performed her latest and most challenging work yet, "Seven Graces," a performance in seven parts and colors that explores the feminine archetypes through the character of the Buddhist goddess Tara.

To say Ratnam blends the undefined seems perhaps like irresponsible art jabber, but in her own statement, Ratnam herself explains "Seven Graces" is a performance about indefinite spaces and the unknown. "It's about the in-between spaces of performance and experience," she wrote. "There are many erasures, hidden and apparent."

Happily, Ratnam does carry this idea through her dance and even further beyond that. She is trained in Indian dance, whose earliest theories are traced back to 400 B.C., and is especially skilled in three of the seven classical dance styles — Bharatanatyam, Mohiniattam and Kathakali. Yet, Ratnam frequently incorporates movements and gestures from contemporary dance and from the Western tradition. To the pleasant surprise of the audience, "Seven Graces," at once had the splayed fingers — interestingly enough, also a trademark of Flamenco dancing — and the powerfully elegent undulations that are part of the Bharatanatyam tradition, but also the interpretive, wide arm gestures and diagonal leg movements that are recognizeable from contemporary dance. The soundtrack changed suddenly from Tibetan chanting and chiming bells to Mozart's "Ave Maria," leading the audience to leap across the expanse from east to west.

For those who had seen classical Indian dance before, the changes between different traditions were very noticeable, but Ratnam worked these to her advantage. The performance, instead of splintering into distinctly separate parts, became a great reflection of exactly what Ratnam had set out originally to do. Mary Fillmore, one local member of the audience who had been to India before and had seen Bharatanatyam performed, agrees that Ratnam was able to bring these seemingly incompatible dance elements together.

Indeed, the incoporation of classical Indian dance with contemporary movement in a performance steeped in Indian, Tibetan and Buddhist elements shown to a Western audience would seem to have huge, inherent problems, but Ratnam seemed unhindered by this. Fielding questions after "Seven Graces," it became apparent that such a problem had been raised before but presented no barrier to Ratnam's work. "I do a lot of dance beyond classical Indian dance [and] people just leave me alone now," she said, "Besides, dance is interactive. A lot of Indian audiences expect me to spoon-feed them. If people reflect on what I do, they will come away with some understanding."

But "Seven Graces" was not an experience of blending elements for just these reasons. Beyond the amalgamation of dance cultures, the purpose of the performance was to explore the feminine. Tara, or the Jetsun Dolma, is the mother of liberation and represents the female version of Avalokitesvara, the embodiment of all the compassions of the Buddhas, and Ratnam made her the chief subject of the performance. If Ratnam's dance was a successful blending of different skill traditions, then her performance had similar success in letting this Buddhist characterization of the feminine slide into the audience of a completely different culture. This was no Western conception of the female, and she was being explored through dance.

Albert Bitici

Stepping up to front stage, professional Indian dancer Anita Ratnam, who has travelled world-over with her contemporary mixtures of classical Indian and modern dance styles, introduces her latest work to the audience.

Albert Bitici

Pulling an imagined ropes with frantic steps, Ratnam begins her dance. In this section, she explores the first of seven colors or shades of the Buddhist Goddess and femenine archetype, Tara.

This was exactly what Chair of the Women's and Gender Studies Program (WAGS) Moorti Sujata intended to happen when she invited Ratnam to perform. As Sujata, who is also associate professor of WAGS, explains, she had wanted students to be exposed to gender issues from other cultures. "We tend to theorize so much in WAGS, so this, she said, gesturing to the image of Tara that still hung in the background of the stage after the performance, "was a perfect chance to see an exploration of the female from a completely different perspective. I do hope we can have more work from a whole variety of cultures."

Mallika Rao *Conversations with Middlebury's own Indian dancer*

Mallika Rao '05 is passionate about classical Indian dance and growing up, she was trained in the Bharatnatyam style. While a student at Middlebury, she performed in the International Students Organization Cultural Show as well as in Riddim dance troupe and Middance performances.

***The Middlebury Campus*: How and when did you start dancing?**

Mallika Rao: I started when I was seven years old. My aunt is a professional dancer in India of the Bharatanatyam style, the oldest style of Indian dance, and she initiated me into the art. Soon after, I began taking lessons from the only teacher in the Dallas area, where I grew up, whose school has now grown to include two other cities in Texas. After high school graduation, I gave an *arangetram*, a solo performance lasting several hours that's basically a dance graduation. The months spent training made me very dedicated to the art.

***TC*: Which specific type of dance did you practice? Is there any special significance or philosophy behind it?**

MR: I am trained in Bharatanatyam. Hindu mythology describes the whole universe as Siva's cosmic dance and this dance is the basis for Bharatanatyam. It originated in ancient times and was performed in temples as a form of worship. Many sculptures and images associated with Hindu temples and art are Bharatanatyam poses, inspired by temple dancers. Fans of the college's yoga classes might be interested to know that many traditional yoga poses are Bharatanatyam poses as well.

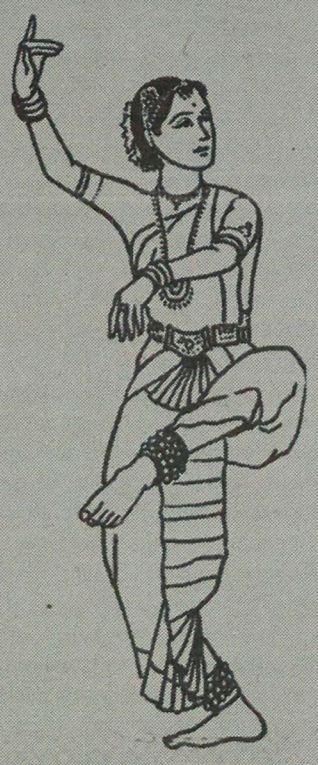
***TC*: D you think classical Indian dance can or should be mixed with contemporary dance?**

MR: I'm probably biased towards this question, seeing as I co-choreographed an Indian-Hip-Hop dance for Middance. While it did feel a unnerving to perform Siva's cosmic dance to the vocal stylings of Truth Hurts [popular urban vocalist], I have to say it's a good idea to be flexible in these things. It's true that much of the art's strength lies in its tradition and original intent, but who's to say how much of that ancient intent has already been naturally fused with competing influences? It has a strong enough presence in India that some fusion in the West can't hurt. Getting trained Western dancers interested in it as a viable form seems like a wonderful idea to me.

***TC*: What recurring theme do you explore in all your dances?**

MR: There are several themes and all of them can be seen in the context of our relationship to God. This is sometimes embodied in the interaction between lovers or in the love between a mother and child. Bharatanatyam is generally a story-telling dance form [of tales] from Hindu mythology. Because of this, you can't escape the Hindu element, except maybe with the defense that Hinduism is a heavily philosophical and therefore a relatively universal religion. I'd say that, even in its most structured, non-narrative form, Bharatanatyam intends to explain the beauty of the universe through the human body. The first dance every dancer learns, "Alaripu," literally translates [as] "blossoming bud." It begins with eye movements, then hand movements, and continues by progressively engaging a new aspect of bodily movement until finally the dancer performs what should be a really breathtaking and strenuous string of steps involving the entire body. The "blossoming" structure of this dance comments on the natural world, as its title suggests, and so is inevitably religious or spiritual or whatever you want to call it.

— Joyce Man



Mclean Mix brings call of the wild

By Melissa Marshall
Staff Writer

This past Thursday or Friday, students could wander into the upper level of Johnson and immerse themselves in an interactive rainforest. Anyone could play a bicycle wheel using a violin bow to create astonishingly realistic bird and amphibian noises between their eleven and one o'clock classes, or fool around on the Jungle Keyboard before checking out the Free Friday Film. You know, the usual.

This less-than-kosher form of entertainment was brought to Middlebury through a joint effort of the Music and Film and Media departments as a part of their New Media Series. The series attempts to expose students to artists who innovatively manipulate technology in their works.

Viewers walked through the darkened room, which was illuminated mostly by the slide projections of different rainforests and filled with student-generated sounds. Some murmurings were so realistic that I found myself searching the ceiling for a real, live howler monkey.

However, the McClean Mix, a duo compromised of husband and wife Barton and Priscilla McClean was not always in the business of such artificially-rendered biomes. They were, and still consider themselves, classical music composers; however, they wanted to get their listeners more engaged. "We wanted to get the audience involved in performing with us. We think that everybody should get the chance to perform, not just musicians," said Priscilla McClean.

The seeds for the idea of a tropical rainforest that can fit in a room were planted in 1988, when the McCleans traveled through the Puerto Rican rainforest.

"We were just so amazed by all the incredible sounds around us and thought, the musical process in the rainforest is basically the same as [that] in the studio," said McClean. They began developing their ideas, and created the initial project within a yer.

The rainforest that students experienced last week consisted of an audiotape and five performing stations. Two featured processing microphones — one had a bicycle wheel with steel spokes that could be played with a violin bow or a mallet, and two other stations had synthesizers — one that was a sampler that played real rainforest sounds, and a digital synthesizer for invented ones. Slides, which faded and dissolved like artwork, consisted of pictures taken by the McCleans of seven different rainforests.

Besides the obvious cool factor of being able to feel as though you are experiencing the rainforest firsthand, the true inventive merit of the McClean's vision lies in its ability to create a wholistic, artistic experience. "It's really nice when there is a form of art that's interactive, visual, and physical all at once. It provided a more complete experience," said student Will Ceurvels '08 after exiting the exhibition.

However, the demonstration did not just rely on its innovative use of technology. In the middle of the room there was also a table set up that was filled with simple objects like a shaker and a cup with a hole in the bottom with a rod to be slid in and out, all of which made surprisingly realistic animal noises. It was enjoyable to be taken back to the days when one could be entertained by something that didn't come with a 200-page manual.

Ilhan Kim

Barton and Priscilla McClean perform their innovative electronic imitations and interpretations of rainforest sounds.

"It showed a creative and imaginative twist to making music," said Martin Puga '09, "It was really surprising and cool to see how the artists put together a rainforest out of simple household objects." Sara Jameson '09 agreed, saying, "I was amazed at how these simple instruments, some just made out of plastic cups and straws, could imitate so truly the sounds of nature,"

The McClean Mix also accomplished another important aspect of and contribution to art – it fostered a sense of community simply by following the crudely-designed paper signs featuring a mountain with a raining cloud, one had the opportunity to make a bird chirp by running a bow across a steel spoke and a frog croak at the wave-station, much to the enjoyment of other students in the room. Without a doubt, the exhibit could be entertaining to one person, but it was everyone's contribution that made the room come alive with the noises of nature. Priscilla Mclean seems to have had this in mind when creating the project. "It's a mind-expander," she said, "it is not traditional music. It's a discovery of sounds that can be used musically – a type of chamber music that can be performed with strangers or with friends."

It was indeed a weekend for music here at Middlebury. Campus bands Alex Ayres and The Easy Answers electrified the Forest Basement on Friday night, while State Radio had the Social Space jamming on Saturday. However, it was the small exhibit in Johnson that truly embodied the creative, resourceful, and communal essence of the five-letter word that means so much - music.

Editors' A&E picks

for the weeks of 3/16 - 3/29

16

THE END OF SUBURBIA – SCREENING AND DISCUSSION
7:30-9 p. m. in Twilight Auditorium
"The End of Suburbia" questions the sustainability of the all-to-comfortable suburban life. As the film explores the causes and effects of oil consumption, the inevitable question is raised: what can be done to avoid "The End of Suburbia"? The screening will be followed by a discussion which will concentrate on plans for Addison County Relocalization Network (ACCRN), a newly emerging local organization working to improve our local communities while reducing dependence on oil.

16

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES: PAUL LEWIS, PIANO
7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall
Pianist Paul Lewis, one of the most prominent classical musicians of his generation, continues his ambitious quest to play all of Beethoven's piano sonatas. This concert will be the third in a series of eight he will play at Middlebury. In February 2005, he recorded the works in Berlin for Harmonia Mundi, for which he has earned much critical acclaim. Today's concert will consist of two early sonatas, no. 8, "Pathetique," and no. 12, as well as two late sonatas, nos. 27 and 28.

18

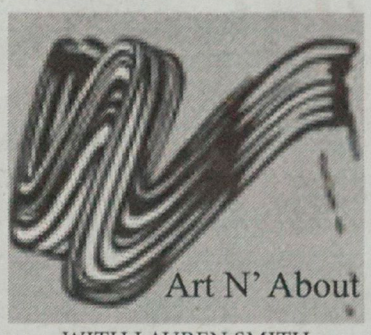
SWAN LAKE
7:30 p.m. at Flynn MainStage, Burlington
Tickets: $48/$39/$28; students with ID save $4 off top two ticket prices
One of Russia's most illustrious ballet companies, the Tchaikovsky Ballet and Orchestra, will perform the classic romantic tale of "Swan Lake" this Friday at the Flynn Center in Burlington. Known for its pomp, pageantry and incredible talent, the company's performance is sure to be one of elegance, emotion and beauty — a visual and musical feast for the eyes and ears.

27

TENGIR-TOO MUSIC ENSEMBLE
7-9 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall
Tengir-Too comes to Middlebury from Central Asia to perform the music of their native lands. The group, inspired by the sounds and sensibility of the nomads who inhabit Kyrgyzstan's awe-inspiring landscape of mountains, lakes and untouched grasslands, combine traditional instruments and music and original composition to create an innovative, breathtaking sound.

29

JULIA ALVAREZ READS FROM HER NEW NOVEL
4:30-6 p.m. in Twilight Auditorium
Celebrated Writer-in-Residence Julia Alvarez's new novel "Saving the World" probes the depths of politics, medicine, activism and love through the stories of two women living centuries apart. Alvarez will read and address questions concerning "Saving the World," her fifth published novel in Twilight Auditorium Wednesday March 29.



WITH LAUREN SMITH

An interactive exhibit opened at the Firehouse Gallery in Burlington last Friday night. The exhibit, entitled Another Side of In: Mike Gordon and Marjorie Minkin, explores the linkage between sound, movement and visual art. Gordon, most widely known as the bass player of Phish, and Minkin, who happens to be his mother, create a peaceful yet dynamic environment that is made all the more so by the continually shifting soundscapes triggered by the viewer's movements.

The exhibition consists of 20 paintings by Marjorie Minkin on heat-formed Lexan is the General Electric tradename for a lightweight, tough and break resistant plastic that can be manipulated when exposed to heat. The artist creates organic, colorful shapes that mirror the appearance of melted glass. Though each "painting" is similarly shaped, the colors vary according to the feeling provoked by the accompanying music created by Gordon. Minkin, who writes in her artist statement that she and her son have long hoped to work collaboratively, worked in a recording studio with Gordon to create the exhibition pieces. The pieces are inspired by the "colors" and "textures" of the sounds from his latest CD. "I have made a group of heat molded painted Lexan works as my personal response to the rhythms and tones of the music," Minkin writes on the exhibit's web site, www.anothersideofin.com.

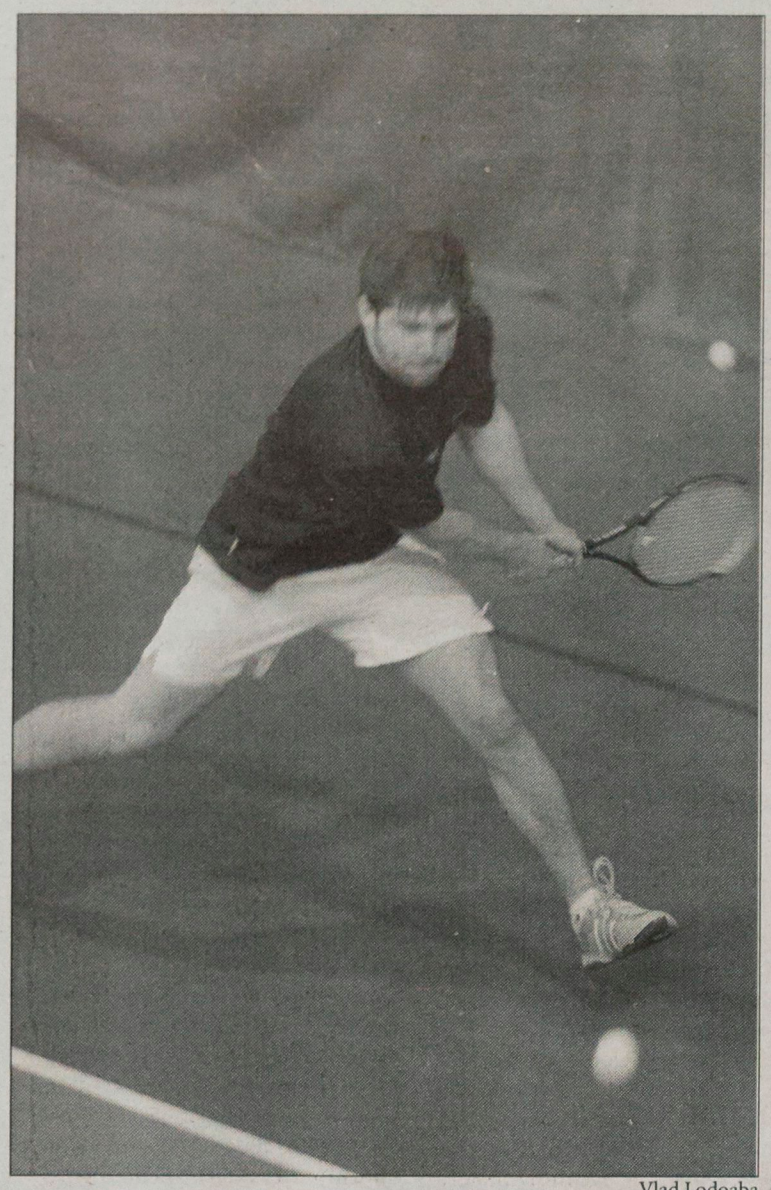
Each painting has a mounting system that accommodates a hidden speaker and proximity sensor. The sound clips triggered by a viewer's proximity come from Gordon's 2003 CD, "Inside In," which is the soundtrack to his experimental movie, "OUTSIDE OUT." Gordon writes: "It's a collaboration-meant-to-be, since my artistry has always been inspired by my mother's…my Inside In album is now lending the perfect setting for a more in-depth juxtaposition." The sound clips from Gordon's CD encompass a wide range of instruments and musical influences, from the sound of a banjo to a collection of rhythmic reggae-influenced beats. Of course, some of the clips have a Phish-inspired sound. Even though the sounds vary widely, the space that houses the exhibit never seems chaotic, even with a crowd of people inside. Each clip is perfectly balanced to create a stimulating, yet serene atmosphere.

The key element in the exhibit is the viewer. Without the viewer's proximity, the pieces remain silent and stagnant. At a variable distance from each painting, the sound loop associated with it will begin. The sound's volume will rise or fall as one gets closer or moves away from a piece. "So many of the installations that I've seen that claim to be "interactive," often with rave reviews, seem to be hardly that," writes Gordon. "They offer no clear correlation between art and observer. We would like, with this show, to provide a more stimulating example of viewer participation."

The gallery is located at 135 Church St. The exhibit ends on April 30. Check out the Web site anothersideofin.com — it too has some awesome interactive features.

Panthers on fire with four straight 7-0 wins

Men's tennis runs rampant over Brandeis, Rochester, Hamilton and Bates



Vlad Lodoaba

Ari Beilin '06, one of Middlebury's three captains, notched a perfect start to the spring season on a personal and team level with a few well-earned wins.

By Tory Hayes
Staff Writer

Smack. Crackle. Pop. Last weekend, the hum of Nelson Arena's fluorescent lights was continually shattered by the sound of little yellow balls making contact with the tennis rackets of Middlebury's Men's Tennis team. With the daunting task of playing four matches in 48 hours, the team came up in spades, sweeping every school they played by a score of 7-0.

After taking care of Brandeis and Rochester on Saturday and then Hamilton on Sunday morning, the team was ready to face Bates on Sunday afternoon. "Bates was our first big NESCAC match," said Ari Beilin '06, one of the team's three senior co-captains. Beilin, however, seemed to have little trouble with his match, overpowering his opponent with a potent mix of booming serves and perfectly-placed lobs.

Men's Tennis

Sunday, March 12

Middlebury	7
Bates	0

Meanwhile, co-captain Nate Edmunds '06 took a decidedly different approach with his match. Despite having to serve underhand (Edmunds tore some cartilage in his side playing intramural basketball), the captain cruised to an easy victory in two sets, keeping his opponent off balance with a devastating mix of heavy topspin loops and searing cross-court forehands.

The match's indisputable highlight, however, was senior co-captain Brian Waldron's dramatic come-from-behind win in three sets.

After losing the first set and getting off to a rough start in the second, Waldron seemed to be running out of fuel. Not even the eclectic ensemble of drinks (water, Gatorade, juice and Coke) he kept by his chair seemed to be enough to get him started again.

It's going to be a tough, tough week ... probably the toughest in my four years here. But, we get another crack at Santa Cruz.
—Ari Beilin '06

Backed by a lively crowd that did everything from "the wave" to the "slow clap," Waldron found a way to re-start his engines and began pounding his opponent's backhand with rocketing serves and powerful forehands. As the competition between the two players heated up, the ball began to move so fast that sometimes it was barely distinguishable on the orange rubber surface of the arena. Try as he might, however, Waldron's opponent could not keep up with the Middlebury captain, and Waldron pulled away with a victory in three sets, capping off his team's perfect weekend.

Having roared out of the gates with a 4-0 record to start the season, the team is headed to California over spring break. While the weather might be beautiful, their schedule is not, as they will play seven matches in the Sunshine State, four of which are against top-10 teams. "It's going to be a tough, tough week," said Beilin. "Probably the toughest in my four years here. But we get another crack at Santa Cruz." Beilin was referring to their highly-anticipated March 25 rematch with UC-Santa Cruz, who defeated Middlebury in the National Championship title match last year.

Like most team trips over spring break, the men's tour of Cali is about more than just what happens on the court. Said Edmunds, "The last two years we have gone to California and it has been a great bonding experience for the team and a nice break from the cold weather."

There is no need to worry, however — this team certainly does not see the next two weeks as a vacation. Said George Mayer '07, "We're definitely going to be tested, which is good."

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Panther skiers rock the Rockies at nationals

Albert Bitici

The Middlebury ski team took home a top 10 finish at the NCAA Championship at Steamboat, Colo. last weekend to complete its 2006 campaign.

By Geoff Homer & Brooke Farquhar
Staff Writers

Last week the Middlebury alpine ski team headed out to Ski Town USA — Steamboat, Colo. — to compete against the nation's top Division I collegiate ski programs.

After an impressive season on the eastern circuit which saw multiple top 10 finishes and some podium placements here and there, the team was determined to end the season on a high note.

The Panthers finished seventh overall, with the alpine team placing fourth out of 24 teams, behind champion and host University of Colorado, which won with 654 points despite only having 11 of the maximum 12 competitors. Finishing second was the University of New Mexico with 556 points. Dartmouth College placed third with 537.5 points, while the University of Denver and UVM rounded out the top five.

The Nordic ski team completed their season over the weekend with a seventh place finish at the NCAA Championships at the University of Colorado. In the Classic Nordic races on Thursday, Cassidy Edwards '09 finished 15th in her first NCAA Championship.

In the same race Evelyn Dong '07 placed 23rd, and Jenny Hamilton '07 finished 37th. In the men's 10K Classic, which was also held on Thursday, seniors Garrot Kuzzy and Jake Whitcomb finished 30th and 39th, respectively. Tim Reynolds '09 placed 36th in his first Classic race at the NCAA Championships.

The men's and women's Nordic teams also competed well in the free technique races on Saturday. Dong had an impressive third place finish in the women's 15K, while Edwards '09 placed 19th and Hamilton 36th. In the men's 20K, Kuzzy finished 15th, Whitcomb came in 36th and Reynolds followed right behind in 37th.

The championships began on a snowy day, which resulted in poor visibility and a rough course for the racers. The previous night's snowstorm had deposited more than half a foot of snow on the racecourse, providing less than optimal racing conditions, especially for the eastern skiers who used to skiing on bulletproof ice. Adapting to the altitude also presented a challenge to the Panthers and other eastern teams, as the elevation made it difficult for the racers to keep their stamina throughout the run, since they were expending much more than their usual energy to finish their races.

In 2007, the Panthers look to be even stronger, as they only graduate one carnival skier on the men's side and none on the women's.

The women were the first to run, and about half of the field encountered difficulty because of the conditions. Megan Hughes '08, the Panthers' top skier, was second after the first run, only .05 seconds behind first run winner and eventual champion Abbi Lathrop of Colby College. Going for the win, Hughes laid it all out on the second run. Unfortunately, she became a victim to the conditions and crashed into a panel only four gates from the finish, earning disqualification. The top skier was Mattie Ford '09 in an impressive 14th place, with Krissy Poehling '08 right behind in 18th.

The men, on the other hand were forced to wait around until 3 p.m. to start their second run, during which they encountered heavy snowfall. It would be an understatement to say that everyone had difficulties during their second run. The Panthers were led by first-year Andrew Wagner, who finished 13th, a great result for the underclassman. Right behind him was Andrew Everett '07 in 17th, with Clayton Reed '08 rounding out the team in 29th.

A new format introduced this year was the slalom race, which was to be run under the lights at nearby Howelsen Hill (the GS was run on Steamboat's main mountain). The night start presented an interesting challenge for all the competitors, since they had to sit around all day waiting for the race to start, as opposed to being on the hill at 8 a.m.

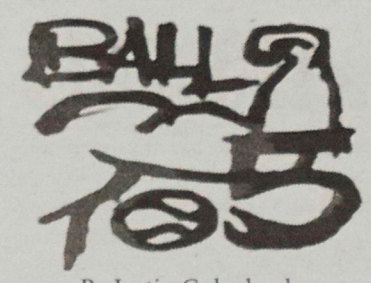
On the men's side, Dartmouth's Karl Johnson took the victory, giving Dartmouth its fifth straight NCAA slalom title. The Panthers were led by Reed, who finished a mere two seconds behind Johnson in 11th place, just missing All-American honors. Everett was the next finisher in 19th, while Wagner was 29th after encountering difficulties in his first run.

The women were led by defending NCAA champion Hughes, who finished on the podium in third, less than half a second behind Lucie Zikova of Colorado, earning her All-American recognition for the second straight year. Mattie Ford continued her impressive first year on the team with a 9th place finish, also receiving All-American status for her efforts. Behind Ford was Poehling, who finished 17th.

In 2007, the Panthers look to be even stronger, as they only graduate one carnival skier on the men's side and none on the women's. Next year's NCAA Championships will be hosted by the University of New Hampshire and will take place at Attitash. With the core of the team returning, the Panthers look to improve on their seventh place finish. The 2006 season is not over, as several Panthers will be competing in the U.S. National Alpine Championships at Sugarloaf, Maine next week.

Editors' Picks

Questions of the week:	*Zamir Ahmed*	*Tom McCann*	*Ryan W. Reese*
How many D-III ice hockey championships will Middlebury win this weekend?	ONE Too many great teams are playing for Midd to win two titles for back-to-back-to-back seasons.	TWO The men are playing great hockey and with Quizon playing on one ACL her team won't let her down.	ONE The women showed their desire to win in comeback situations. The men will have a tough time with Elmira.
Will the women's lacrosse team be undefeated at the end of spring break?	YES The Panthers should be motivated when they take on Salisbury in a rematch of last year's early-season loss.	NO This is a great lacrosse team, but this is not an easy start to the season. I expect a slip-up somewhere.	YES They'll dominate Conn. Coll., play a closer game against St. Lawrence and then avenge last season's loss to Salibury.
Which 12 seed will win its first round game in the men's NCAA basketball tournament?	KENT STATE Pittsburgh will have its hands full with the MAC champ, typically a tough opponent in the Big Dance.	TEXAS A&M I know, 'Cuse won the Big East, but their luck is about to run out. The glory days of 'Melo are long gone.	UTAH STATE Watch out for Nate Harris and Jaycee Carroll to run all over the Washington Huskies.
All-Time Record:	**13 - 14 (.481)**	**19 - 8 (.704)**	**17 - 10 (.630)**



By Justin Golenbock

Rumors have been swirling after recent stories that have suggested mutual personal interest between Maria Sharapova and LeBron James ("That day might present itself," he responded in seriousness to a joke about going out with Maria after the ESPYs). This is not a good thing. I cannot compete with King Bron-Bron. But perhaps more importantly, for Sharapova, these stories have coincided with the recent bit of obligatory bad press suggesting she's overrated on the court because she's so hot off of it.

I take that press with a grain of salt because it's a traditional tactic in sports journalism to build up an athlete's off-court persona and then take it down (see: Kirby Puckett, Mark McGwire, Bode Miller). And I have her SI swimsuit four-page spread tacked on my wall. But she's one of the top three or four female tennis players in the world and she just turned 18. And she's won Wimbledon. So come off it.

Inevitably, the argument takes a bloody turn when some idiot suggests she's "just another Anna Kournikova." Let me channel my indignation.

Anna Kournikova was a GREAT tennis player. I say "was" because starting in 2000, when she had just turned 18 and was just entering her peak, she had the first of a series of debilitating injuries that sidelined her career: torn ligaments in her thumb, stress fractures in both feet and eventually chronic back and spine injuries from the wear and tear of an 11 month WTA tour schedule that features virtually no off-season.

The biggest knock on Anna is that she never won a singles tour event as a WTA tour pro. But when Anna was only 11, she had already won her first International Tennis Federation (ITF) junior (18 and under) championship. By the time she turned pro at age 15, she had won more junior events than any girl in ITF history. Even the claim that she has never won a WTA singles event comes with its own asterix — in her first year as a pro, she did win two ITF adult singles tournaments (the organization that sanctions the four Grand Slams).

In her singles career, she rose as high as eighth in the women rankings and reached four singles finals, losing twice to Martina Hingis, once to Venus Williams and once to Anna Smashnova (a real person). As a DOUBLES player, she won 16 titles, including two grand slams, and was several times ranked the No. 1 doubles player in the world. So yeah, she could play a little. And no, she never actually went out with Enrique Iglesias. I mean, come ON (He's right guys…come on).

So a few of us were in love with her. And a few of us are in love with Maria. They're really good in the, you know, competitions and stuff. But it's also okay to appreciate achievement without getting overexcited in demarcating the merely second-best. Or third or fourth or eighth best.

Student radio delivers Midd hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

which included a small soundboard, laptop, microphone stand and headsets. The cables and connectors seemed to run together into a tangled mess. McCann and I jokingly discussed the pros and cons of the pre-game snack and the individual preference between the hamburger and the hot dog, practicing our radio voices. After Berkman figured out some technical difficulties with the new system, we were "on the air" for senior Gloria Velez's rendition of the national anthem.

7:07 P.M. – As Berkman started off his play-by-play we got accustomed to the format, and McCann made his first color comments on the fact that Manhattanville's first-year goaltender had forgotten her water bottle. "Well, well, well...it looks like its going to be a thirsty twenty minutes for the first-year netminder," said McCann with a knowing smile creeping into his voice. We decided that this was the first sign of nerves and that it was going to be a long period for Carine Turmel. Soon after this, the first Panther defensive miscue resulted in the Valiants' first goal. Berkman continued his solid play-by-play account of the goings on as McCann and I voiced our opinions that it would take much more than a fluke like that to slow down the Panther attack.

I try to get all of the action for the listener and try to make them feel like they're at the game. It's kind of an art.
— Dan Berkman '06

7:32 P.M. – After the first period ended, the three of us provided a short recap of the scrappy and fairly unorganized style of play that characterized the first period of play. We commented on the development of what we had decided would be keys to the game for Middlebury, mainly the Panther defense and first-year offensive sensation Annemarie Cellino. She had not found her stride yet and the Panthers seemed to be a out of sync across the ice, but there were glimmers of hope as the period ended. We also let Berkman know that he was incorrectly pronouncing the names "Cell-ah-no" nd "Koo-gut" instead of "Cell-ee-no" and "Koh-gut." He laughed as he said, "Yeah. I have some trouble with pronunciation in the moment. Thanks for the help." It was during this first break that we realized there were some great perks to this broadcasting gig. McCann and I headed over to the courtesy table and helped ourselves to free pizza and soda as we waited for the zamboni to finish its job down on the ice. Looking to learn as much as we could from the more experienced broadcaster beside us, we asked Berkman what he finds most challenging about broadcasting a hockey game. He said, "doing the play-by-play is definitely the hardest part of the process. Trying to cover all the action is a huge challenge with the fast-paced nature of hockey." He continued, "I try to get all of the action for the listener and try to make them feel like they're at the game. It's kind of an art."

7:48 P.M. – When the second period began, things looked quite bleak for the Panther faithful as another miscue resulted in the second Valiant goal. Berkman's play-by-play continued strongly through the quiet, worried atmosphere inside Kenyon while McCann and I were almost too shocked to contribute anything worthwhile. Suddenly, just as McCann and I had predicted, the Panthers picked up the pace and came roaring back. Cellino shot hard against Turmel on the power play and Erika Nakamura '09 slotted home the rebound with authority. It was not long after this that the Panthers tied up the game with a goal from Tania Kenny '08. The sophomore defensemen found herself in on goal in a shorthanded situation and capitalized with a shot over the shoulder of Turmel. "Redemption, Redemption, Redemption!" From the broadcasting booth, we exploded with excitement for Kenny, whose clearing pass was intercepted and snapped home for the second Valiant goal.

Vlad Lodoaba

Dan Berkman '06.5 has been a staple for the regular radio listeners of Middlebury hockey over the past few years, describing the action as it happens.

8:31 P.M. — As we each threw in our two cents at the end of the second period, we each had a sneaking suspicion that the Panther machine would be rolling right on through to the Frozen Four. Berkman questioned McCann on our predictions for the game's conclusion and he talked about Middlebury's superior conditioning and its home-ice advantage. As we talked about everything from anecdotes about Panther skaters to the fiasco that unfolded around a disfunctional scoreboard, McCann and I realized how much fun Berkman must have on a weekly basis. After we signed off and left the zamboni to its work, the old veteran play-by-play announcer asked if we wanted to try our hand at calling the action. Not being the kinds to turn down a new challenge, we heartily accepted.

8:39 P.M. – I opened the action excitedly as everything that I'd been hearing on the radio my whole life seemed to be coming out of my mouth. There was an undeniable rush associated with calling the action as I frantically tried to keep up with the action while describing the play and including the names of the skaters involved. As our inexperience showed, McCann and I often overlapped one another with our commentary. After a while we worked out a rhythm and got into a real flow of calling the action and including Berkman's colorful comments.

8:53 P.M. – "Cellino scores! What a beautiful thing! I can't believe it! Cellino and [Shannon] Sylvester '07! Oh my!" McCann, Berkman and I let out collective superlatives relating to what had just occurred on the ice below. After an incredible exchange of passes, Sylvester issued a centering pass toward the waiting stick of Cellino, whose one-timer ricocheted off the crossbar and past Turmel for the Panthers go-ahead goal. The Panthers went on to win the game 4-3 after a power play goal from Velez and another goal from the Valiants.

9:06 P.M. – As the Panthers encircled senior netminder Kate Kogut, Berkman, McCann and I wrapped up our commentary from WRMC. We noted the embrace between injured star and Captain Emily Quizon '06 and Cellino, as well as the knowing hug between Quizon and Kogut that carried overtones of respect and excitement, as well as friendship. We ended with a preview of the men's game that would come the following day and some thoughts on the rest of the women's tournament and Middlebury's chances to make it three championships in a row.

9:12 P.M. – We helped Berkman pack up the equipment and walked down the press box steps. He said, "Thanks alot for helping me out tonight. You guys did a great job for your first game." He told us that he had the night off tomorrow and that he would just be enjoying the game from the stands.

While our broadcasting careers may be over as quickly as they began, Berkman will continue a little longer. "I'll do this again next year, seeing as I'm a Feb," he said. However, for Berkman too, it seems, that when his time at Middlebury runs its course, so too, will his career as a commentator. "As much as I'd like to, I doubt that I'll pursue any sort of career in broadcasting," he concluded. While this may be true for us, after one game in the press box, it would certainly be accurate to state that it will not be for a lack of enjoyment or enthusiasm. As Berkman headed off towards his Friday evening plans, McCann and I stood in front of the exit of the arena and looked at each other. We both smiled, laughed and said, "That was awesome."

BY THE NUMBERS

By Jeff Patterson, Staff Writer

3	Place Evelyn Dong '07 finished in the Women's NCAA Freestyle Nordic Skiing Championship
3	Place Megan Hughes '08 finished in the NCAA Women's Slalom Championship
3	Women's lacrosse players (seniors Bergofsky, Perencevich, and Renehan) to score three goals against Colby
21	Consecutive wins for UMass.-Dartmouth before falling to Midd 3-1
.911	Senior Kate Kogut's save percentage in 21 games played (350 saves /384 shots)
911	Phone number all teams facing the Panthers in the NCAA Tournament will have to dial once they get wrecked

INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

Emily Erickson '06 takes time out to talk lax

***The Campus*: So, why lacrosse?**

Emily Erickson: Well, I played lacrosse, basketball and field hockey in high school and I thought about playing all of them here, but decided that there was other stuff that I wanted to do. I kinda thought lacrosse would be a cool sport to play since we've done pretty well traditionally at Middlebury, so I went for it and it's been great.

***TC*: When did you start playing?**

EE: Eighth grade. My dad actually played lacrosse and he said, "why don't you try this?" and so I did – and I liked it a lot better than softball.

***TC*: Why is Middlebury so good at lacrosse?**

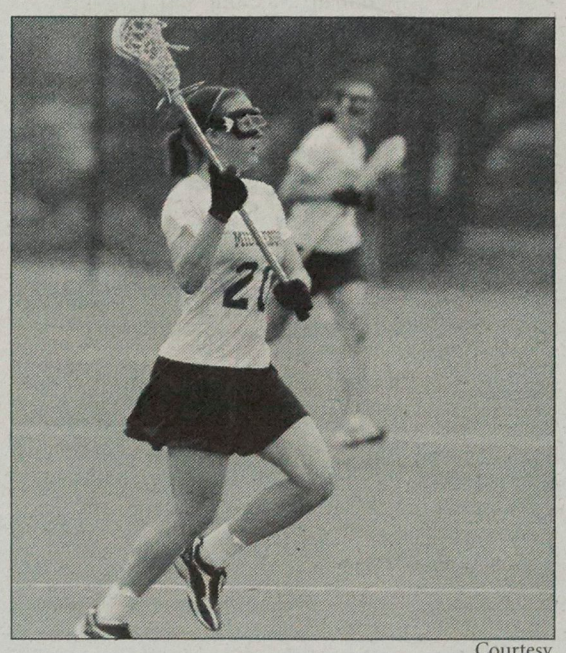
EE: I don't know — I think a lot of it starts with the coaches because they do a great job of recruiting and trying to get great players to come. The first time that the team was successful drew players to recognize it and Missy Foote has been around for 25 years or something like that so she knows what she's doing. I think that's probably the main reason and just the fact that I think the mindset of the team is really positive – it's competitive, I mean we work hard in practice, but we don't go at each other or get competitive within the team and that helps us be tight on the field and we hang out a lot off the field too – we get on pretty well.

***TC*: Do you do anything tactically that's different from other teams?**

EE: We play a zone defense — that's sort of different from a lot of the other teams. A lot of them play man to man. That's something that we work on a lot and it's something we're pretty proud of because we work really hard to make it pretty tight and successful. A lot of teams have a hard time playing against it because they don't have one to practice against. That's probably one of the main things — we try to fast break a lot too — we have a pretty good transition game.

***TC*: What will you miss least about Middlebury lacrosse?**

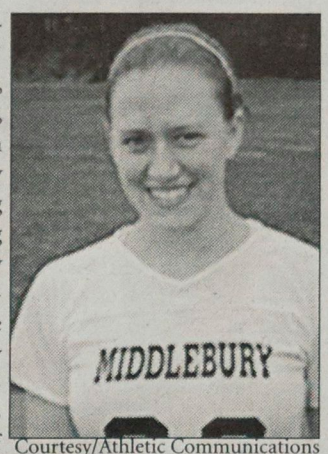
EE: [Laughs] Probably some of the conditioning that we do. One thing I will actually not miss is the pre-season conditioning tests that we do on our first day. It's pretty rough — it's the day before we start practicing with sticks so it's push-ups, sit-ups, abdominal stuff, sprints, two mile runs etc… Fortunately, we just do it at the beginning of the season — it's a part of tryouts and then from there we just kinda do conditioning at the end of practice a lot, but nothing that intense.



Courtesy

***TC*: Why is lacrosse catching on?**

EE: I don't know, — I'm from Maine, and when I was in high school it was really only a southern Maine thing and now it's spreading like crazy — suddenly the Midwest and California have a lot more teams. I think it's partly because people are realizing how fun it is to play. It's got some stuff that's like basketball as far as situational stuff and plays and the way you play defense and then it's like soccer because it's fast and you're running up and down the field a lot. I think people are realizing that it's fairly simple to learn the basics — you just get a stick and learn to catch and you're set, so I think it's fairly easy, relatively inexpensive — you don't need a lot of equipment — and it's a lot fun.



Courtesy/Athletic Communications

***TC*: Is there still a stigma attached to lacrosse?**

EE: A little bit, as far as it being a preppy sport, yeah. I think there is, I mean it's definitely still a lot more prevalent in New England — in the prep schools — and a lot more competitive probably, but I think that's lessening as it spreads. Now a lot more kids are having a chance to play and lot of the inner city athletes who maybe didn't get to play lacrosse but are really great athletes are now being able to play and it's becoming a lot less just a private school sport.

***TC*: Skirts or shorts?**

EE: I mean, we always practice in shorts, obviously, but skirts are just a traditional part of the uniform — I don't have anything against it, I guess. Actually, they've got to the point where it's not uncomfortable or awkward and it really doesn't feel any different to shorts so it's not that big of a deal.

***TC*: Who's the biggest jokester on the team?**

EE: We've got a couple. Probably Whitney Wildrick, the sophomore goalie — she's pretty wild, but yeah, we've got a couple of jokesters.

***TC*: Who's the player most likely to not wake up for a morning game?**

EE: [Laughs] Maybe Amanda Smith '08 because she's a little bit of a space cadet sometimes.

***TC*: If you could change one rule about lacrosse what would it be?**

EE: They've actually just put a couple of rule changes in. Now there are hard boundaries and there didn't used to be. It used to be that when the ball goes out of bounds, it was the first person that got to it got it back, but they've changed it this year so that if you pass it out the other team gets a turnover, which makes sense. I think it makes you concentrate on skills a lot more than just speed and running after it.

***TC*: Do your post-graduation plans include lacrosse?**

EE: I hope so, at some point. I love to coach, so I'd really like to coach at some level but not necessarily college — but high school maybe, or younger kids.

***TC*: Have you won a national championship with Middlebury?**

EE: My sophomore year, yeah.

***TC*: So if you win this year will you dedicate your ring to *The Middlebury Campus*?**

EE: [Laughs] I guess so — I'll think about it.

— Tom McCann, Sports Editor

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

Date	Sport	Vs.	Result	Comments
March 10	W Hockey	Manhattanville	4-3	Annemarie Cellino '09 notched two assists and a goal
March 11	M Hockey	UMass-Dart.	3-1	Eric LaFreniere '07 knocked home two goals in win
March 11	M Lacrosse	Colby	14-4	Jim Cabrera '08 dominated with five goal performance
March 11	W Lacrosse	Colby	18-11	Schuyler Winstead '06 had two goals and three assists
March 11	W Tennis	Brandeis	9-0	Women improved season record to 4-2 before Spring Break trip
March 12	M Tennis	Bates	7-0	Panthers took down formidable competition early in the season

SPORTSBRIEFS

BY ZAMIR AHMED, SPORTS EDITOR

Women's water polo goes 3-1

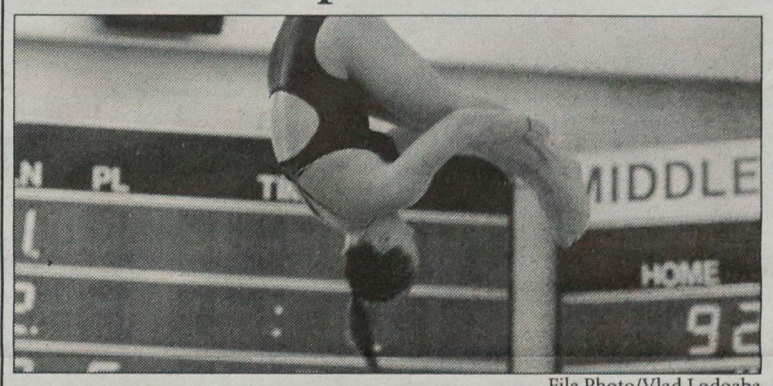
The Middlebury women's water polo team put up a strong showing two weekends ago at the season-opening tournament at Williams College. The team won three of its four games against regional rivals at the competition to earn a tie atop the division standings.

The Panthers opened the tournament against the Yale University A team on Saturday, March 4. The Lady Bulldogs were too tough for the women, winning by a score of 8-5 on their way to an undefeated weekend. The Panthers had to recover quickly from the loss, moving on to take on the host college later in the afternoon. This time, Middlebury was victorious, downing the Ephs 8-4. The team completed the day by taking on Wesleyan College in its third match, taking home an 8-5 win over the Cardinals.

Middlebury closed out the tournament on Sunday with a match against powerhouse Dartmouth College, which finished last season as the second-best club team in the nation. In a close match, the Panthers held on for an 8-6 victory, the squad's first win over the Big Green in team history. The impressive performance during the tournament propelled the Panthers into the national club rankings as they climbed to the number 17 spot in the polls.

The squad's next tournament will be at Dartmouth College on April 8-9. The team hopes to continue improving before it heads into the New England Division Championship, which Middlebury will host on April 22-23. The Panthers finished third at last year's championship and hope to move up in the final standings to earn a trip to the National Collegiate Club Championship. The top two teams in New England will make the trip and the Panthers are in good position to earn a bid to Illinois.

Women compete at Nationals



File Photo/Vlad Lodoaba

The Middlebury women's swimming and diving team wrapped up its season last weekend at the NCAA Championships hosted by Carleton College. The Panthers finished eighth out of the 53 teams competing despite sending only 11 athletes to Minneapolis, Minn. Emory University won the title for the second straight season by the closest margin in the event's history, winning by 25 points over Kenyon College.

Among the highlights for the Panthers over the weekend were two second-place finishes for Marika Ross '08, who won a NCAA title last year. She took the silver in the 100y butterfly with a NESCAC-record time of 55.68 seconds and in the 200y butterfly with a time of 2:04.76. She earned All-American status in these two events as well as in the 200y IM with an eighth-place finish. Ross was also part of two All-American relay teams. She joined Sara Cowie '08, Catherine Suppan '09 and Cornelieke Lammers '09 on the 800y freestyle team that finished fifth in school-record time and swam on the 200y freestyle relay team with Barbara Van der Veer '07, Pam Chatikavanij '08 and Liz Rice '07 that finished seventh.

Other impressive performances for the Panthers included a third-place finish for Cowie in the 1650y freestyle with a time of 17:09.49 and a seventh-place finish for Alanna Hanson '08 in the three-meter diving competition.

Cabrera '08 scores five in win

Middlebury College's Jim Cabrera '08 was named the NESCAC Men's Lacrosse Player of the Week on Monday for his efforts in the Panthers' 14-4 win over Colby. The attacker notched five goals on 10 shots as the team opened up its 2006 spring campaign.

Cabrera netted the first tally of the game just 47 seconds into the contest and added another later in the first period as Middlebury scored the game's first seven goals to open up a commanding lead. He netted another goal in the second period before closing his day with two more goals in the third frame.

Cabrera was the Panthers' leading scorer last season, accumulating 36 goals and 50 points to help the squad reach the NCAA title game, where it fell to Salisbury in a heartbreaker. His impressive first-year campaign earned him a place on the NESCAC All-Conference Second Team as well as Rookie of the Year recognition.

The Panthers, currently ranked second in the nation, will continue their year with a couple of tough early season match-ups. The team will take on Stevens Institute on March 18 at Peter Kohn Field at 1 p.m. before traveling to Pennsylvania on March 22 to take on Gettysburg, which sits just behind the Panthers in the polls in the number three spot.

Unsung Hero of the Week

BLAIR BOWIE '09 (Women's Lacrosse)
In her first game, the first-year goalie made 11 saves in the Panthers' 18-11 win.

SKIING | ALPINE AND NORDIC TEAMS TAKE SEVENTH AT NCAAS IN COLORADO | 25

MEN'S TENNIS | PANTHERS OPEN SPRING SEASON WITH FOUR CONVINCING WINS | 24

GAMES TO WATCH

MEN'S LACROSSE
VS. STEVENS INST.
MAR. 18 | 1:00 P.M.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
VS. GUST. ADOLPHUS
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campus sports

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Panthers ride Mules in season opening win

Perencevich '06, Bergofsky '06 and Renehan '06 notch hat tricks in Maine

By Sarah Luehrman
Staff Writer

The Panthers are off to a roaring start with last weekend's 18-11 road victory over Colby. The team played a tight and competitive game, never allowing Colby to surpass them. "Although we had some lapses," commented captain Emily Erickson '06, "we were really able to pull it together and work things out on both the offensive and the defensive ends." After maintaining a tie at 5-5, a pair of unassisted goals from attacker Liza Humes '07 "sparked the offense," according to Erickson, and pulled the Panthers permanently into the lead with three and a half minutes remaining in the first half. Captain Elizabeth Renehan '06 netted one more goal 12 seconds before the buzzer to end the period at 8-5.

The opening goal of the second half came from attacker Schuyler Winstead '06 off what Assistant Coach Melissa Hopkins called "a classic Winstead move," scoring on a lefty bounce from inside the 8m arc shot through the goalie's legs. Riding their momentum, Middlebury outscored Colby 5-1 in the first 10 minutes of the second half, with four more from Claire Edelen '07, Channing Weymouth '06, Alison Perencevich '06 and Kim Walker '07. Though Colby's offense would fight back a few times, the Panthers' decisive lead remained throughout as they employed a wide range of offensive plays. Persistent attacker Michele Bergofsky '06 scored on the third of three shots in a row, getting each rebound and pressuring the goalie until she got through. Defensive midfielder Reid Berrien '08 and Renehan each tallied in the last five minutes to end the game 18-11.

"We've been working hard in practice on our zone defense, our transition and some settled offensive plays," said Erickson, "and the game gave us an opportunity to try it all out against a competitive and aggressive team." The Panthers, no less aggressive, out-shot the Mules 38-23. In addition, Middlebury was able to showcase the depth of their offense, with 10 different players scoring during the game. Leading the offense were Winstead with two goals and three assists, Bergofsky with three goals and one assist, and Perencevich and Renehan with three goals apiece. Also of note was rookie Blair Bowie '09 with a very successful Middlebury debut in goal, playing 57 minutes and making 11 saves.

"We'll continue to work on polishing — zone defense, transition and offensive plays — this week before we head to Florida over break," said Erickson. The Panthers have two games ahead of them in Florida, first against St. Lawrence on Monday, March 20, and then against Salisbury on the following Wednesday. While St. Lawrence has not made an NCAA appearance since the '90s, Salisbury looms as one of only two teams to defeat Middlebury last season. The Panthers played the Sea Gulls last year during their spring break as well and fell 12-10, suffering their only regular season loss in five years. Salisbury went on to have a spectacular year, placing first in the nation in their offense and second overall. They fell, however, in the NCAA final four. This spring, their season is off to a hot start as they roll into league play this week with a 4-0 record. Needless to say, they will give Middlebury a good game next week. The Panthers have reason to be optimistic in the fact that this year's *Lacrosse Magazine* ranked them as the second best team in the country. This position allows them look down at Salisbury, who were placed third in the magazine's 2006 Division III preseason rankings. Middlebury fans, it seems, are not the only ones with high hopes for the Panthers' season. With this talented group of players, optimism abounds.

Courtesy

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team notched 18 goals on its way to a convincing victory over nationally ranked Colby in its season opener.

WRMC reaches fans through radio waves

By Ryan W. Reese
Sports Editor

. "For Tom McCann and Ryan Reese, this is Dan Berkman signing off for Panther hockey on WRMC 91.1." With these words, Berkman '06.5 disconnected from the airwaves and live Internet feed to end the radio broadcast of the NCAA quarterfinal game between Middlebury's women's hockey team and their counterparts from Manhattanville. As we packed up the soundboard, microphones and headsets, I began to reflect on the evening's broadcast and the process involved in producing and broadcasting Middlebury sports on the campus radio station WRMC.

As the postseason tournaments rolled around this year and Middlebury's berth became secure, *The Campus* began to brainstorm new, innovative styles of tournament coverage. In this search, Tom McCann '06 recalled that Berkman was a commentator for WRMC and that this angle would be a fresh and exciting view of Middlebury hockey. Through a series of e-mails, phone calls and coincidences, McCann and I found ourselves in the press box Friday night alongside Berkman, headphones and all. The following story recaps our experience as a color commentator and play-by-play announcer.

5:47 P.M. – McCann and I met Berkman in Atwater Dining Hall for a pregame meal. As we sat over our turkey dinner, Berkman went over some basic elements of the broadcast. He explained how we would do a short pregame introduction that included a history of the two programs and series record as well as statistics and predictions for the game. He also gave us some encouragement as he said, "Make sure to include any interesting facts, observations or anecdotes that you have about the players or anything."

6:21 P.M. – On the walk across campus, we stopped at the library to print off some statistics for the Panthers and the Valiants. Berkman explained, "The season stats always come in handy for pregame analysis and the recaps and commentary during the intermissions." After a quick pit stop in the restrooms, we were on our way down to Kenyon Arena. During the walk, Berkman explained that he has been commentating since he arrived here. "I've always loved hockey games and thought this would be a great way to be involved in the sport during college." He has been doing women's games for a while now and has recently provided color commentary for the men's contests. Also, he explained the new system for broadcasting that is run through an iTunes program. He told us that this system was much more efficient and enhanced the sound quality of the production. Previously, the broadcasts were patched through the station headquarters by a rudimentary dial-up system. As we entered the rink, McCann and I felt as though we were in "Wayne's World" flashing our backstage passes as we walked straight through the security checks toward the press box.

6:45 P.M. – We followed Berkman up the stairs to the press box overlooking the ice. As I looked down and watched warm-ups, Berkman busied himself setting up the equipment,

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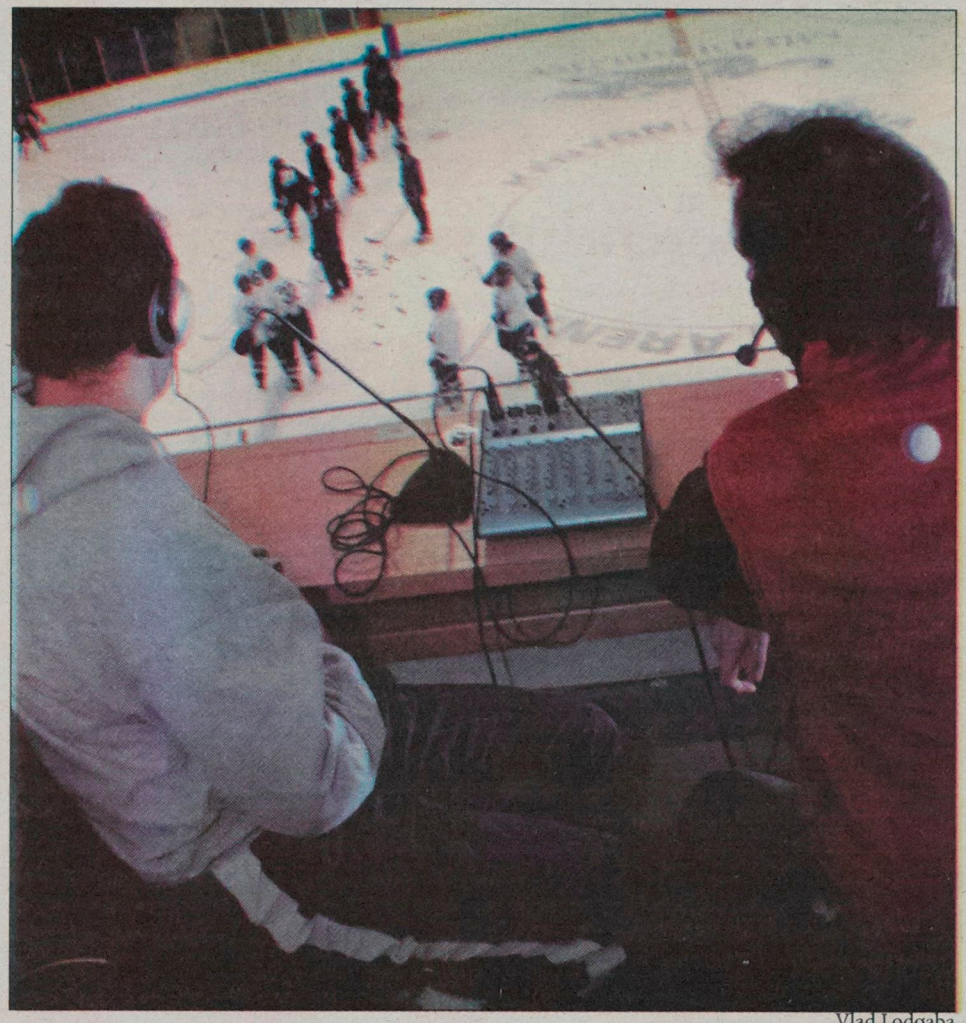

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Dan Berkman '06.5 and Nick DeSantis '07 provided the play-by-play commentary for the women's and men's NCAA Quarterfinals respectively, this past weekend for WRMC 91.1.